







SCENIC TOURS • PUBS

ABBEYS • MUSIC • HOTELS

**CRAFTS • CELTIC HERITAGE** 

THE GUIDES THAT SHOW YOU WHAT

# **EXEMITNESS TRAVEL**

# **IRELAND**

Never has a travel guide been so easy to use – just turn to the area of your choice

# AREA COLOR CODES

- DUBLIN pages 52–119
- SOUTHEAST IRELAND pages 124–151
- CORK AND KERRY pages 152–179
- THE LOWER SHANNON pages 180–199
- THE WEST OF IRELAND pages 200–219
- NORTHWEST IRELAND pages 220–235
- THE MIDLANDS pages 236–253
- NORTHERN IRELAND pages 254–285

# TRAVELERS' NEEDS

- WHERE TO STAY pages 288–319
- RESTAURANTS, CAFÉS AND PUBS pages 320–351
- SHOPPING IN IRELAND pages 352–357
- ENTERTAINMENT IN IRELAND pages 358–367

### SURVIVAL GUIDE

- PRACTICAL INFORMATION pages 370–381
- TRAVEL INFORMATION pages 382–393
- INDEX pages 394–413

\$25.00 USA \$32.00 CANADA

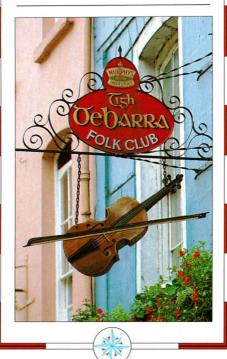




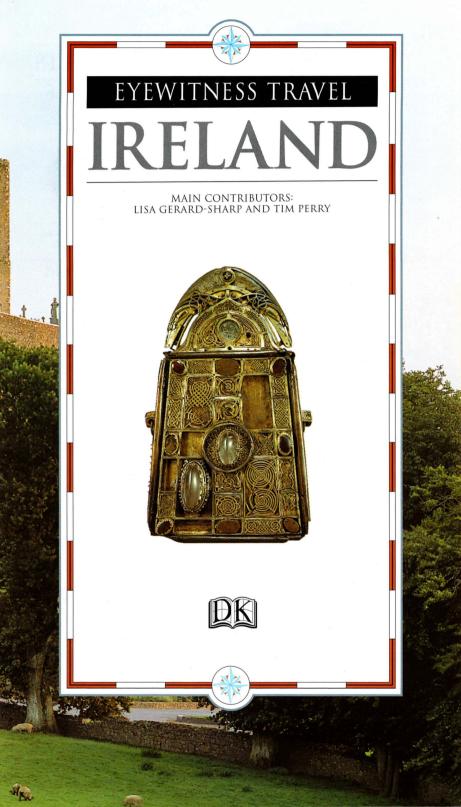


# EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

# IRELAND









# LONDON, NEW YORK, MELBOURNE, MUNICH AND DELHI www.dk.com

PROJECT EDITOR Ferdie McDonald
ART EDITOR Lisa Kosky
EDITORS Maggie Crowley, Simon Farbrother, Emily Hatchwell,
Seán O'Connell, Jane Simmonds
DESIGNERS Joy FitzSimmons, Jaki Grosvenor,
Katie Peacock, Jan Richter
RESEARCHERS John Breslin, Andrea Holmes
PICTURE RESEARCHERS Sue Mennell, Christine Rista
DTP DESIGNERS Samantha Borland, Adam Moore

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Una Carlin, Polly Phillimore, Susan Poole, Martin Walters

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Joe Cornish, Tim Daly, Alan Williams

#### ILLUSTRATORS

Draughtsman Maps, Maltings Partnership, Robbie Polley

Reproduced by Colourscan, Singapore Printed and bound in China by Toppan Printing Co. (Shenzhen Ltd)

First American edition 1995 06 07 08 09 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Published in the United States by DK Publishing, Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014

# Reprinted with revisions 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006

Copyright © 1995, 2006 Dorling Kindersley Limited, London A Penguin Company

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED UNDER INTERNATIONAL AND PAN-AMERICAN COPYRIGHT CONVENTIONS. NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED, STORED IN A RETRIEVAL SYSTEM, OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC, MECHANICAL, PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING OR OTHERWISE WITHOUT THE PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNER.

Published in Great Britain by Dorling Kindersley Limited.

ISSN 1542-1554 ISBN-10 0-75661-544-5 ISBN-13 978-0-75661-544-4

FLOORS ARE REFERRED TO THROUGHOUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH EUROPEAN USAGE, I.E., THE "FIRST FLOOR" IS THE FLOOR ABOVE GROUND LEVEL.

Front cover main image: Inishmore, Aran Islands

# The information in this DK Eyewitness Travel Guide is checked regularly.

Every effort has been made to ensure that this book is as up-to-date as possible at the time of going to press. Some details, however, such as telephone numbers, opening hours, prices, gallery hanging arrangements and travel information, are liable to change. The publishers cannot accept responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of this book, nor for any material on third-party websites, and cannot guarantee that any website address in this book will be a suitable source of travel information. We value the views and suggestions of our readers highly. Please write to:

Publisher, DK Eyewitness Travel Guides,

Dorling Kindersley, 80 Strand, London, Great Britain WC2R 0RL.

# **CONTENTS**

HOW TO USE THIS



An evangelical symbol from the Book of Kells (see p64)

# INTRODUCING IRELAND

DISCOVERING IRELAND 10

PUTTING IRELAND ON THE MAP 12

A PORTRAIT OF IRELAND 14

THE HISTORY OF IRELAND 30

IRELAND THROUGH THE YEAR 48

# DUBLIN AREA BY AREA

DUBLIN AT A GLANCE **54** 



Georgian doorway in Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin (see p68)

## **SOUTHEAST DUBLIN 56**

## SOUTHWEST DUBLIN 72

NORTH OF THE LIFFEY **84** 

## FURTHER AFIELD 94

SHOPPING IN DUBLIN 104

ENTERTAINMENT IN DUBLIN **108** 

DUBLIN STREET FINDER **116** 

# IRELAND REGION BY REGION



Detail of the Chorus Gate at Powerscourt (see pp134–5)

IRELAND AT A GLANCE **122** 

> SOUTHEAST IRELAND **124**

CORK AND KERRY 152

THE LOWER SHANNON **180** 

THE WEST OF IRELAND **200** 

NORTHWEST IRELAND 220

THE MIDLANDS 236

NORTHERN IRELAND **254** 



Grazing cows at Spanish Point near Mizen Head (see p167)

# TRAVELLERS' NEEDS

WHERE TO STAY 288

RESTAURANTS, CAFÉS AND PUBS **320** 

SHOPPING IN IRELAND **352** 

ENTERTAINMENT IN IRELAND 358

# SURVIVAL GUIDE

PRACTICAL INFORMATION **370** 

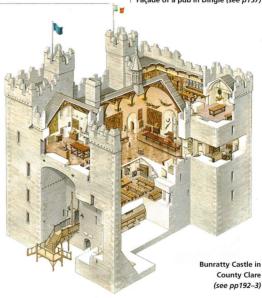
# TRAVEL INFORMATION **382**

GENERAL INDEX **394** 

ROAD MAP INSIDE BACK COVER



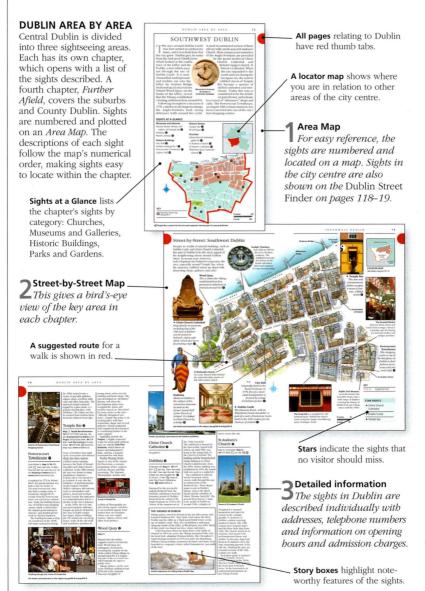
Façade of a pub in Dingle (see p157)



# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

most from your visit to Ireland. It provides both expert recommendations and detailed practical information. Introducing Ireland maps the country and sets it in its historical and cultural context. The seven regional chapters, plus Dublin Area

his guide helps you to get the by Area, contain descriptions of all the important sights, with maps, pictures and illustrations. Restaurant and hotel recommendations can be found in Travellers' Needs. The Survival Guide has tips on everything from the telephone system to transport both in the Republic and in Northern Ireland.





## IRELAND REGION BY REGION

Apart from Dublin, Ireland has been divided into seven regions, each of which has a separate chapter. The most interesting towns and places to visit in each area have been numbered on a Regional Map.

Each region of Ireland can be quickly identified by its colour coding, shown on the inside front cover.

Regional Map This shows the road network and gives an illustrated overview of the whole region. All interesting places to visit are numbered and there are also useful tips on getting around the region by car and train.

Getting Around gives tips on travel within the region.

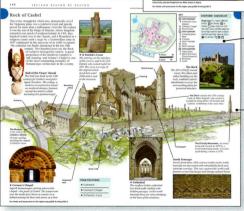
# Detailed information

3 Detailed informations

All the important towns and other places to visit are described individually. They are listed in order, following the numbering on the Regional Map. Within each town or city, there is detailed information on important buildings and other sights.





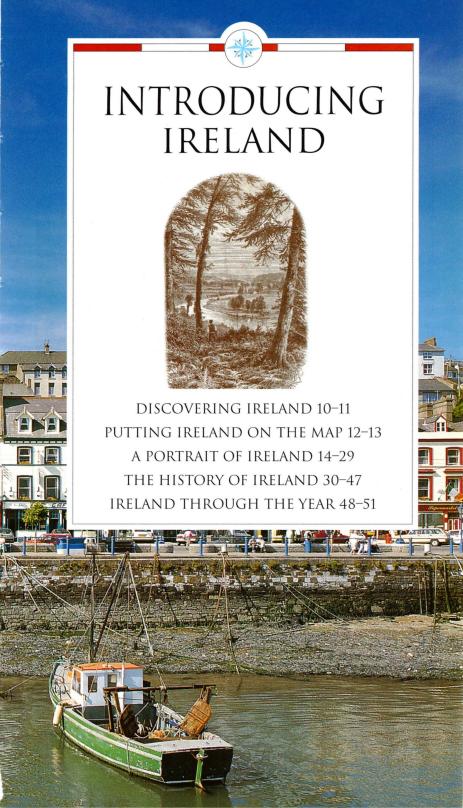


The Visitors' Checklist provides all the practical information you will need to plan your visit to all the top sights.

Ireland's top sights

\*These are given two or more full pages. Historic buildings are dissected to reveal their interiors. The most interesting towns or city centres are shown in a bird's-eye view, with sights picked out and described.





# DISCOVERING IRELAND

reland's popularity as a tourist destination is ensured by its profound cultural heritage, breathtaking scenery and famously easy-going lifestyle. Much of the joy of travelling around Ireland is the warmth of the people; their welcome rarely



Bust of St Patrick

feels forced. Celtic ruins, medieval forts and stately homes dot the landscape, giving the island a certain majesty. The chapters in this guide have been divided into eight colour-coded regions, each incorporating counties of the Republic or Northern Ireland.

# **DUBLIN**

- Historic Trinity College
- Celtic treasures at the National Museum
- Superb theatre & pubs

Newly cosmopolitan Dublin, with most of its attractions within easy walking distance. has much to offer the visitor. Trinity College, founded in 1592 by Oueen Elizabeth I. allows access to its spectacular Old Library, which houses the medieval Book of Kells (see pp62-4). The National Museum (see pp66-7), just a few blocks from the college, offers a fascinating insight into Ireland's past, while the National Gallery (see pp70-71) presents excellent exhibitions particularly in the stunning Millennium Wing.

Theatre in Dublin is top notch with plays by the Irish greats staged at venues such as the **Abbey** (see p88), which was founded by WB Yeats.

The lively district of **Temple Bar** (see p 78) offers a flavour of traditional Irish "crack", with a host of busy bars and



Crossing the River Liffey over Ha'penny Bridge, Dublin



The vivid greens surrounding the Killarney Lakes, County Kerry

restaurants. Keep in mind however that this city is far more expensive than anywhere else in the country.

#### SOUTHEAST IRELAND

- Powerscourt
- Wicklow Mountains
- · Fine beaches

The "sunny southeast" is one of the most popular holiday regions in the country, with summer weather more reliable than elsewhere in Ireland. The port town **Rosslare** (see p151) boasts a fine 9.5-km (6-mile) beach and an excellent golf course nearby.

Located at the foot of the Great Sugar Loaf Mountain, the extensive grounds at **Powerscourt** (see pp134–5) are among the most beautiful in the country, with the stately Italian Garden cascading down landscaped terraces.

Glendalough (see pp140–41) in the Wicklow Mountains features the atmospheric ruins of a once flourishing monastic settlement established by St Kevin during the 6th century.

#### CORK & KERRY

- Cork and the Blarney Stone
- Colourful fishing villages
- Lakes of Killarney

This region, one of the country's most picturesque, has a long indented coastline which blends with the highest peaks in Ireland. Hundreds of miles of walking and cycling routes crisscross the area, including the celebrated Ring of Kerry (see pp164–5) which encircles the Iveragh Peninsula. The clear Lakes of Killarney (see pp162–3) are nestled into the lush hills of central Kerry and are one of the area's most popular holiday destinations.

Cork is a small, pretty city of riverside quays and winding alleys, enlivened by an exciting cultural buzz (see pp174–7). Nearby, at the ruins of Blarney Castle (see p171), visitors queue to kiss the Blarney Stone, said to bless them with the gift of the gab. To the east of Cork, the Old Midleton Distillery (see p179) offers tours and tastings that no whiskey drinker should miss.

## THE LOWER SHANNON

- The rugged Burren
- Majestic Cliffs of Moher
- · Early Christian settlements

The River Shannon runs through the region, dominated by barren limestone and wet marshy land, before emptying into the sea. Few trees grow on the vast Burren, an atmospheric and otherworldy landscape (see pp186-8). The sudden 200-m (650-ft) drop of the Cliffs of Moher, shrouded in mist and battered by Atlantic gales, is one of the most dramatic stretches of coastline in the country (see p184). Built on a strategic hillock, the 5th-century Rock of Cashel was first a stronghold of the Munster kings and later of the Church (see pp196–7).



Poulnabrone Dolmen, perched on the limestone plateau of the Burren

#### THE WEST OF IRELAND

- Unspoilt Aran Islands
- Connemara National Park
- · Galway's infectious charm

The West of Ireland is a region of contradictions, with farming areas, rugged coast-lines and cosmopolitan towns. The Irish language (Gaelic) is still spoken in many areas and the region is a haven for traditional music and dancing. The **Aran Islands** (see pp.214–15) offer a chance to experience unspoilt Ireland; island life has changed little in the last hundred years.

Connemara National Park (see p208) encompasses four of the Twelve Bens, which rise high above the surrounding heathland. This dazzling



Brightly painted shop fronts in the centre of Galway, West of Ireland

landscape provides habitats for peregrin falcons and semiwild Connemara ponies. Lively **Galway** is Ireland's fastest growing city, yet it

somehow manages to retain

much of its medieval charm

(see pp210-11).

# NORTHWEST IRELAND

- Deserted beaches and rugged coasts
- Prehistoric Celtic sites

Perched at the furthest reaches of the island, the northwest has remained isolated from events, retaining a large population of Gaelic speakers. The dramatic landscape includes the breathtaking cliffs of Slieve League, best visited at sunset when they are streaked with red (see p229). The large herd of deer is reason enough to visit Glenveagh National Park and Castle (see pp216-17), but there's also the stunning Lough Veagh and, just outside the park, the eerily forbidding valley, Poisoned Glen.

#### THE MIDLANDS

- Newgrange's ancient grave
- Ruins of Clonmacnoise

The pastures of the Midlands are the cradle of Irish civilization. Pre-dating the Celts, the mysterious passage graves of **Newgrange** were built around 3200 BC (see pp.246–7). The once thriving monastery of **Clonmacnoise** is now in ghostly ruins (see pp.250–51).

Elegant **Birr** (see p253) comprises a Georgian layout and beautifully restored houses.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

- Giant's Causeway
- Magnificent lakeland
- · Belfast's exciting nightlife

For many years, Northern Ireland has been associated with sectarian conflict. Finally visitors are rediscovering the region, which encapsulates the **Mountains of Mourne** (see p284) and Ireland's biggest lake, **Lough Neagh** (see p274).

Belfast (see pp276–9) is a fascinating city, where the political loyalties of its citizens are preserved in the murals of West Belfast. The Cathedral Quarter is a cultural hotspot, with culinary and architectural gems adorning its streets.

The **Giant's Causeway** (see pp262–3), a volcanic formation of basalt columns, is an unusual sight, which adds to the rugged beauty of the **Causeway Coast** (see p261).



The crumbling remains of Dunluce Castle in Northern Ireland

# Putting Ireland on the Map

The island of Ireland covers an area of 84,430 sq km (32,598 sq miles). Lying in the Atlantic Ocean to the northwest of mainland Europe, it is separated from Great Britain by the Irish Sea. The Republic of Ireland takes up 85 per cent of the island, with a population of 3.9 million. Northern Ireland, part of the United Kingdom, has 1.7 million people. Dublin is the capital of the Republic and has good international communications.

0 ( 6 8 "







# A PORTRAIT OF IRELAND

any visitors see Ireland as a lush green island, full of thatched cottages, pubs, music, wit and poetry. Like all stereotypes, this image of the country has a basis in truth and the tourist industry helps sustain it. The political and economic reality is, of course, rather less ideal, but the relaxed good humour of the people still makes Ireland a most welcoming place to visit.

Cathleen ni Houlihan,

Ireland, at least for the time being, is a divided island. History and religion created two hostile communities in North and South. The IRA ceasefire of 1997 and the subsequent Good Friday Agreement brought new hope, however. John Hume of

the SDLP and David Personification of Ireland
Trimble of the Ulster Unionist Party young n
were jointly awarded the Nobel prize
for peace for their work in the peace
process, and the inaugural meeting
of the Northern Ireland Assembly

Yet, th

Ireland has had more than its fair share of wars and disasters, culminating in the Great Famine of 1845–8, since when poverty and emigration

took place on 1 July 1998.

have been part of the Irish way of life. More people of Irish descent live in the USA than in Ireland itself. Suffering and martyrdom in the cause of independence also play an important part in the Irish consciousness. The heroine of

WB Yeats's play *Cathleen ni Houlihan* inspires

young men to lay down their lives for Ireland. Her image appeared on the first banknote issued by the newly created Irish Free State in 1922.

Yet, the Irish retain their easy-going attitude to life, with a young, highly educated population working hard to make its way in today's European Union. In the Republic, over 50 per cent of the population is under 30.



Façade of Trinity College, Dublin, the Republic's most prestigious university



Young first communicant in County Kerry

Despite its high birth rate, rural Ireland is sparsely populated. The Industrial Revolution of the 19th century barely touched the South and for much of the 20th century the Republic seemed an old-fashioned place, poorer than almost all its fellow members of the European Union.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

In recent years, tax breaks and low inflation have attracted more foreign investment to the Republic and many multinationals, especially computing and chemical companies, have subsidiaries here. Ireland joined the single

European currency on 1 January 1999, and the Republic's economy continues to grow while unemployment is falling. Another important industry is tourism. The South receives over 3 million visitors a year and visitors to the North are now steadily increasing.

Traditionally, Northern Ireland had far more industry than the South, but during the 25 years of the Troubles, old heavy industries, such as shipbuilding, declined and new investors were scared away. However, the election of members to the new Northern Ireland Assembly in June 1998 ushered in a new political and economic era for the North. For both parts of Ireland, geography is still a barrier to prosperity. Located on the periphery of Europe, the island is isolated from its main markets and thus saddled with high transport costs. Fortunately, subsidies from the EU have helped improve the infrastructure in the Republic.

# **RELIGION AND POLITICS**

The influence of Catholicism is strong. In the Republic, the Church runs most schools, along with some hospitals and social services. Irish Catholicism runs the gamut from missionary zeal to simple piety. According to some



Pavement artist on O'Connell Street, Dublin

estimates, over 90 per cent of the population goes to Mass. Religion plays an important role in the politics of the Republic and moral conser-

vatism is evident in attitudes to divorce, contraception, abortion and homosexuality.

The election of liberal lawyer
Mary Robinson as President in
1990, the first woman to hold
the post, was seen as a sign of
more enlightened times by many
people, an attitude reinforced by
the election of Mary McAleese as
her successor in 1998. A new
political climate has favoured
the quiet spread of feminism

Traditional Irish dancing



Connemara pony show

Traditional farming: a field of haystacks overlooking Clew Bay, County Mayo

and challenged the old paternalism of Irish politics, not only in social issues but also in helping break down the clannish cronyism of the tradi-

tional parties Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael.

# LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Ireland was a Gaelicspeaking nation until the 16th century, since when the language has de-

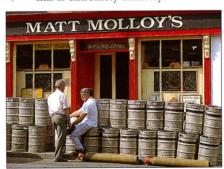
clined. Today, however, the Republic is officially bilingual. Knowledge of Irish is a requirement for university entrance and a career in the public sector, although only 11 per cent of the population speaks Gaelic fluently.

Irish culture, on the other hand, is in no danger of being eroded. The people have a genuine love of old folk legends and epic poetry and songs. Festivals, whether dedicated to St Patrick or James Joyce, pubs or oysters, salmon or sailing, are an important part of community life. Music is a national passion – from the rock of U2 and the Cranberries to the folk music of Clannad, the Chieftains and Mary Black.

Another national passion is horse racing. Ireland's breeders and trainers are masters of their trade and enjoy astonishing international success for

such a small country. Other sports are followed with equal intensity, as witnessed during the 1994 football World Cup. Drinking also plays an important part in Irish culture: social life centres on the pub and the

"crack" (convivial chat) to be enjoyed there. With smoking now banned in pubs in the Republic, many wonder whether pubs and the life surrounding them will collapse. Given the attachment to Guinness, gossip and music, this is extremely unlikely.



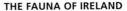
Matt Molloy's pub in Westport, County Mayo

# The Landscape and Wildlife of Ireland

The landscape is one of the Ireland's greatest attractions. It varies from bogs and lakes in the central lowlands to

mountains and rocky islands in the west. Between these two extremes, the island has abundant lush, green pastureland, the result of plentiful rainfall, but little natural woodland. Parts of the far west, where the land

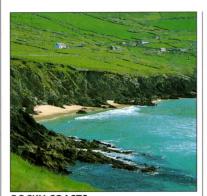
is farmed by traditional methods, are havens for threatened wildlife, including the corncrake, which needs undisturbed hayfields in which to nest.



Many animals (including snakes) did not make it to Ireland before the Irish Sea rose after the Ice Age.

Natteriack toad

Other surprising absentees are the mole, weasel and common toad (the natterjack, however, can be seen). The wood mouse is the only small native rodent, but the once common red squirrel has now been virtually taken over by the grey.



**ROCKY COASTS** 

Chough

The Dingle Peninsula (see pp158-9) is part of a series of rocky promontories and inlets created when sea levels rose at the end of the Ice Age. Cliffs and islands offer many sites for sea birds, with some enormous colonies, such as the gannets of Little Skellig (pp164-5). The chough

still breeds on cliffs in the extreme west. Elsewhere in Europe, this rare species of crow is declining in numbers.

Thrift grows in cushion-like clumps, producing its papery pink flowerheads from spring right





Sea campion is a low-growing plant. Its large white flowers brighten up many a cliff top and seaside shingle bank.



LAKES, RIVERS AND WETLANDS

This watery landscape around Lough Oughter is typical of the lakelands of the River Erne

(pp270-71). Rainfall is high throughout the year, which results in many wetlands,

especially along the Shannon (pp185) and the Erne. The elegant great crested grebe breeds mainly on the

larger lakes in the north.

Great crested grebe





Fleabane, once used to repel fleas, thrives in wet meadows and marshes. It has yellow flowers like dandelions



Red deer have been introduced into many areas, notably the bills of Connemara.

Grey seals are a common sight in the waters off the Atlantic coast, feeding on fish and occasionally on sea hirds.







Otters are more likely to be seen in the shallow seas off rocky coasts than in rivers and lakes, though they live in both habitats.



MOUNTAIN AND BLANKET BOG



As well as the raised bogs of the central lowlands (p252), much of Ireland's mountainous ground, particularly in the west, is covered by blanket bog such as that seen here in Connemara (pp206–209). On drier upland sites this grades into heather moor and poor

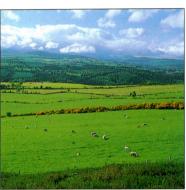
grassland. The wheatear, which inhabits rocky scree and heathland, is a restless bird with an unmistakable white rump. It flits about, dipping and bobbing in pursuit of flies.

Bog myrtle is an aromatic shrub, locally common in Ireland's bogs. Its leaves can be used to flavour drinks.





Bogbean, a plant found in fens and wet bogland, has attractive white flowers splashed with pink. Its leaves were once used as a cure for boils.



**PASTURELAND** 



Rolling pastureland with grazing livestock, as seen here in the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains (pp138-9), is a very common sight throughout Ireland. The traditional farming methods employed in many parts of the k island (particularly in the west) are of great benefit to wildlife.

Rooks, for example, which feed on worms and insect larvae found in pasture, are very common.

Meadow vetchling uses its tendrils to clamber up grasses and other plants. It has clusters of pretty pale yellow flowers.



Marsh thistle is a common flower of wet meadows and damp woodland. It is a tall species with small, purple flowerheads.

# Architecture in Ireland



Window of an Irish cottage

Ireland's turbulent history has done incalculable damage to its architectural heritage. Cromwell's forces, in particular, destroyed scores of castles, monasteries and towns in their three-year campaign against the Irish in the mid-17th century. However, many fascinating buildings and sites remain, with Iron Age forts being the earliest surviving settlements. Christianity in Ireland gave rise to mon-

asteries, churches and round towers; conflict between Anglo-Norman barons and Irish chieftains created castles and tower houses. The later landlord class built luxurious country mansions, while their labourers had to make do with basic, one-roomed cottages.



## LOCATOR MAP

Iron Age forts

Round towers

Tower houses

Georgian country houses

IRON AGE FORT

Ring forts (raths) were Iron Age farmsteads enclosed by an earth bank, a timber fence and a ditch to protect against cattle-raiders. Inside, people lived in huts with a souterrain (underground passage) for storage and refuge. Some were in use as late as the 17th century, but all you can usually see today are low circular mounds. In the west, stone was used for cahers (stone ring forts) and promontory forts (semi-circular forts built on cliff tops using the sea as a natural defence).

# Thatched hut Entrance Souterrain

## **ROUND TOWER**

Lookout

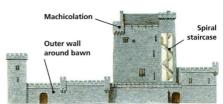
window

Conical Round towers, often over roof 30m (100 ft) tall, were built between the 10th and 12th centuries on monastic sites. They were bell towers, used as places of refuge and to store valuable manuscripts. The entrance, which could be as high as 4 m (13 ft) above ground, was reached by a ladder that was bauled up from the inside. Other moveable ladders connected the tower's wooden floors.

Wooden floor

Moveable ladder

## **TOWER HOUSE**



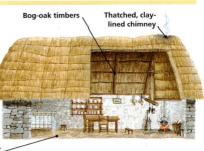
Tower houses were small castles or fortified residences built between the 15th and 17th centuries. The tall square house was often surrounded by a stone wall forming a bawn (enclosure), used for defence and as a cattle pen. Machicolations (projecting parapets from which to drop missiles) were sited at the top of the house.

### COTTAGE

# One-roomed cottages

thatched or slate-roofed, are still a common feature of the Irish landscape. Built of local stone with small windows to retain heat, the cottages were inhabited by farm workers or smallholders.

Clay floor



#### **IRON AGE FORTS**

- 1) Staigue Fort p164
- ② Dún Aonghasa p214
- ③ Craggaunowen p190
- 4 Grianán of Ailigh pp226-7
- (5) Hill of Tara p248

## **ROUND TOWERS**

- (6) Kilmacduagh p212
- 7) Ardmore p145
- (8) Clonmacnoise pp250–51
- Devenish Island p271
- (i) Kilkenny *p144*(ii) Glendalough *pp140–41*

### **TOWER HOUSES**

- (12) Aughnanure Castle p209
- Thoor Ballylee pp212–13Knappogue Castle p189
- 15 Blarney Castle p171
- 16 Donegal Castle p230

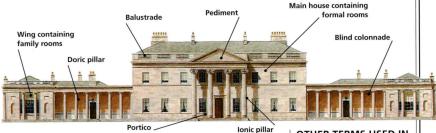
# GEORGIAN COUNTRY HOUSES

- 17 Strokestown Park House pp218-19
- (18) Castle Coole p272
- 19 Emo Court p253
- 20 Russborough House pp132-3
- 21 Castletown House pp130–31



The well-preserved round tower at Ardmore

## **GEORGIAN COUNTRY HOUSE**



Between the 1720s and 1800, prosperous landlords commissioned palatial country mansions in the Palladian and Neo-Classical styles popular in England over that period. Castle Coole (above) bas a Palladian layout, with the main house in the centre and a colonnade on either side leading to a small pavilion. The Neo-Classical influence can be seen in the unadorned façade and the Doric columns of the colonnades. Noted architects of Irish country houses include Richard Castle (1690–1751) and James Wyatt (1746–1813).

## STUCCO

Stucco (decorative relief plasterwork), popular in the 18th century, is found in many Georgian country houses as well as town houses and public buildings. The Italian Francini brothers were particularly sought after for their intricate stuccowork (notably at Castletown and Russborough) as was Irish craftsman Michael Stapleton (Trinity College, Dublin and Dublin Writers Museum).



Trompe l'oeil detail at Emo Court



Stucco portrait at Castletown House



Ceiling at Dublin Writers Museum



Stuccowork at Russborough House

# OTHER TERMS USED IN THIS GUIDE

Beehive hut: Circular stone building with a domed roof created by corbelling (laying a series of stones so that each projects beyond the one below).

Cashel: Stone ring fort.

**Crannog:** Defensive, partly artificial island on a lake. Huts were often built on crannogs (see p33).

**Curtain wall:** Outer wall of a castle, usually incorporating towers at intervals.

Hiberno-Romanesque: Style of church architecture with rounded arches highly decorated with geometric designs and human and animal forms. Also called Irish-Romanesque.

Motte and bailey: Raised mound (motte) topped with a wooden tower, surrounded by a heavily fenced space (bailey). Built by the Normans in the 12th century, they were quickly erected in time of battle.

**Tympanum:** Decorated space over a door or window.

# Literary Ireland

For a land the size of Ireland to have produced four Nobel prizewinners in Shaw, Yeats, Beckett and Séamus Heaney is a considerable feat. Yet it is not easy to speak of an "Irish literary tradition" as the concept embraces rural and urban edition of experiences, Protestant and Catholic traditions and the Gaelic and English languages. Irish fiction today, as in the past, is characterized by a sense of community and history.



WB Yeats - Ireland's most famous poet



a love of storytelling and a zest for language.

The Blasket Islands, which provided inspiration for several writers

## **GAELIC LITERATURE**

Irish literature proclaims itself the oldest vernacular literature in Western Europe, dating back to early monastic times when Celtic folklore and sagas such as the epics of Cúchulainn (see p26) were written down for the first time. The disappearance of Gaelic literature followed the demise, in the 17th century, of the Irish aristocracy for whom it was written. Gaelic literature has had several revivals. Peig Sayers is famous for her accounts of the harsh life on the Blasket Islands (see p158) in the Maria Edgeworth early 20th century.

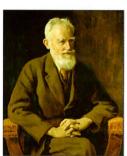
An early Anglo-Irish writer was satirist Jonathan Swift (see p82), author of Gulliver's Travels, who was born in Dublin in 1667 of English parents. Anglo-Irish literature was strong in drama, the entertainment of the cultured classes, and owed little to Irish settings or sensi-

> bilities. By the 1700s, Ireland was producing an inordinate number of leading playwrights, many of whom were more at home in London. These included Oliver Goldsmith remembered for his comedy She Stoops to Conquer, and Richard Brinsley

Sheridan, whose plays include The School for Scandal. Near the end of the century, Maria Edgeworth set a precedent with novels such as Castle Rackrent, based on the class divide in Irish society.

Novelist

The 19th century saw an exodus to England of Irish playwrights, including Oscar Wilde, who entered Oxford University in 1874 and later became the darling of London society with plays such as The Importance of Being Earnest. George Bernard Shaw (see p100), writer of St Joan and Pygmalion, also made London his home. This dramatist. critic, socialist and pacifist continued to write until well into the 20th century.



Playwright George Bernard Shaw

# **20TH-CENTURY WRITERS**

In 1898, WB Yeats and Lady Gregory founded Dublin's Abbey Theatre (see p88). Its opening, in 1904, heralded the Irish Revival, which focused on national and local themes. Playwright John Millington Synge drew inspiration from a love of the Aran Islands and Irish folklore, but the "immoral language" of his Playboy of the Western World caused a riot when first performed at the Abbey Theatre. Along with contemporaries, like Sean O'Casey and WB Yeats, Synge influenced subsequent generations of Irish

# ANGLO-IRISH LITERATURE

The collapse of Gaelic culture and the Protestant Ascendancy led to English being the dominant language. Most literature was based around the privileged classes. writers, including novelist Seán O'Faolain, humorous writer and columnist Flann O'Brien, and hard-drinking, quarrelsome playwright Brendan Behan. The literary revival also produced many notable poets in the mid-20th century such as the gifted Patrick Kavanagh and Belfastborn Louis MacNeice, often considered to be one of the finest poets of his generation.



Caricature of protesters at Dublin's Abbey Theatre in 1907

#### THREE LITERARY GIANTS

From the mass of talent to emerge in Irish literature, three figures stand out as visionaries in their fields. WB Yeats (see p233) spent half his life outside Ireland but is forever linked to its rural west. A writer of wistful, melancholic poetry, he was at the forefront of the Irish Revival, helping forge a new national



The writer Brendan Behan enjoying the company in a Dublin pub

cultural identity. James Joyce (see p90) was another trailblazer of Irish literature - his complex narrative and stream of consciousness techniques influenced the development of the modern novel. Ulysses describes a day in the life of Jovce's beloved Dublin and shaped the work of generations of writers. Bloomsday, which is named after one of the novel's characters, Leopold Bloom, is still celebrated annually in the city. The last of the three literary giants, novelist and playwright

Samuel Beckett (see p62), was another of Dublin's sons, though he later emigrated to France. His themes of alienation,

The poet Patrick Kavanagh

despair, and the futility of human existence pervade his best-known plays, Waiting Bloomsday

Mahor

for Godot and Endgame.

#### CONTEMPORARY WRITERS

Ireland's proud literary tradition is today upheld by a stream of talented writers from both North and South. Among the finest are Corkborn William Trevor, regarded as a master of the short story, and Brian Moore, whose stories of personal and political disillusionment are often based in his native Belfast. Similarly, Dubliner Roddy

Doyle mines his workingclass origins in novels such as *The Snapper* 

> and Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha. Other established Irish writers are Brian Friel and Edna O'Brien. Out of Ireland's contemporary poets, the Ulster-born writers

Séamus Heaney and Derek Mahon are considered among the most outstanding.

### **IRELAND IN THE MOVIES**

Ireland has long been fertile ground for the world's film makers, and its people have been the subjects of major films, notably *The Crying Game* (1992), *In the Name of the Father* (1994) and *Michael Collins* (1996). Another popular film was *The Commitments* (1991). Filmed on location in and around Dublin with an all-Irish cast, it was based on a novel by Roddy Doyle. More recently, parts of Co Wexford doubled as the beach heads of Normandy in Steven Spielberg's World War II epic *Saving Private Ryan* (1997).



Cast of The Commitments, written by Roddy Doyle

# The Music of Ireland

Ireland is the only country in the world to have a musical instrument – the harp – as its national emblem. In this land, famous for its love of music, modern forms such as country-and-western and rock flourish, but it is traditional music that captures the essence of the country. Whether you are listening to Gaelic love songs that date back to medieval times or 17th- and 18th-century folk songs with their English and Scottish influences, the music is unmistakably

Irish. Dance is an equally important aspect of Irish traditional music, and some of the most popular airs are derived from centuries-old reels, jigs and hornpipes. Nowadays these are mainly performed at *fleadhs* (festivals) and *ceilis* (dances).



Turlough O'Carolan (1670–1738) is the most famous Irish harper. The blind musician travelled the country playing his songs to both rich and poor.

Many of O'Carolan's melodies, such as The Lamentation of Owen O'Neill, still survive.

Piano accordion



John F McCormack (1884–1945) was an Irish tenor who toured America to great acclaim during the early part of the 20th century. His best-loved recordings were arias by Mozart. Another popular tenor was Derry-born Josef Locke. A singer of popular ballads in the 1940s and '50s, he was the subject of the 1992 film Hear My Song.



## THE CURRENT MUSIC SCENE



Mary Black

Ireland today is a melting pot of musical styles. The resurgence of Irish traditional music has produced many highly respected musicians, such as the pipe-players Liam Ó Floin and Paddy Keenan from Dublin, while groups like the Chieftains and the Fureys have gained worldwide fame by melding old with new. Ireland is also firmly placed on the rock'n'roll map, thanks to singers such as Van Morrison in the 1970s and later bands like Thin Lizzy and the Boomtown Rats. The most famous rock band to

come out of Ireland is Dublin's U2 who, in the 1980s, became one of the world's most popular groups. Other international successes include singers Enya, Mary Black and Sinéad O'Connor; and, more recently, bands like the Cranberries and the Corrs.





Traditional Irish dancing is currently enjoying renewed popularity. From the 17th century the social focus in rural areas was the village dance held every Sunday. From these gatherings, Irish dancing became popular.

#### LIVE TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Wherever you go in Ireland, you won't be far from a pub with live music. For the Irish traditional musician, there are few set rules – the improvisational nature of the music means that no two performances of any piece are ever likely to be the same.



Violins, or fiddles, can either be tucked under the chin or held against the upper arm, shoulder or chest.



Irish folk songs, such as this one about the 1916 Easter Rising, tend to have a patriotic theme. But some of the most powerful songs have been written not just about the national struggle, but also about hardship, emigration and the longing for the homeland.

# TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTS

There is no set line-up in traditional Irish bands. The fiddle is probably the most common instrument used. Like the music, some instruments have Celtic origins – the uillean pipes are related to the bagpipes played in Scotland and Brittany today.

The me
basic
Boo
me
suit
mus
pian

The melodeon is a basic version of the button accordion. Both these instruments are better suited to Irish music than the biano accordion.

The uillean pipes are similar to bagpipes and are generally considered to be one of the main instruments in Irish traditional music.



The harp bas been played in Ireland since the 10th century. In recent years, there has been a keen revival of barp playing in Irish traditional music.

The banjo comes from the Deep South of the US and adds a new dimension to the sound of traditional bands.



The flute and tin whistle are among the most common instruments used in traditional Irish music. The latter is often called the penny whistle.



# Ireland's Celtic Heritage



Stone carving on Boa Island

Ireland's rich tradition of storytelling embraces a folk heritage that abounds with myths and superstitions. Some stories have been in written form since the 8th century, but most originated over 2,000 years ago when druids passed on stories orally from one generation to the next. Like the Gaelic language itself, many of Ireland's legends have links with those of ancient Celtic races throughout Europe.

As well as the heroic deeds and fearless warriors of mythology, Irish folklore is also rich in tales of fairies. leprechauns, banshees and other supernatural beings.



Part of the 2,300-year-old Gundestrup Cauldron unearthed in Denmark which depicts Cúchulainn's triumph in the Cattle Raid of Cooley

#### CUCHULAINN

The most famous warrior in Irish mythology is Cúchulainn. At the age of seven. going by the name of Setanta, he killed the savage hound of Culainn the Smith by slaying it with a hurling stick (one of the first times the sport of hurling is mentioned in folklore). Culainn was upset at the loss so Setanta volunteered to guard the house.

earning himself the new name of Cúchulainn, meaning the hound of Culainn.

Before he went into battle. Cúchulainn swelled to magnificent proportions, turned different colours and one of his eyes grew huge. His greatest victory was in the 'Cattle Raid of Cooley" when Queen Maeve of Connaught sent her troops to capture the coveted prize bull of Ulster. Cúchulainn learned of the plot and defeated them



The formidable Queen Maeve of Connaught

single-handedly. However, Oueen Maeve took revenge on Cúchulainn by using sorcerers to lure him to his death. Today, in Dublin's GPO (see p89), a statue of Cúchulainn commemorates the heroes of the 1916 Easter Rising.

#### FINN MACCOOL

The warrior Finn MacCool is the most famous leader of the Fianna, an elite band of troops chosen for their strength and valour and who defended Ireland from foreign forces. Finn was not only strong and bold but also possessed the powers of a seer, and could obtain great wisdom by putting his thumb in his mouth and sucking on it. When they were not at war, the Fianna spent their time hunting. Finn had a hound called Bran which stood almost as high as himself and is said to be the original ancestor of the breed known today as the Irish wolfhound. Many of the

# FAIRIES, LEPRECHAUNS AND BANSHEES



The diminutive figure of the leprechaun

The existence of spirits, and in particular the "little people", plays a large part in Irish folklore. Centuries ago, it was believed that fairies lived under mounds of earth, or "fairy raths", and that touching one of these tiny figures brought bad luck. The most famous of the "little people" is the

the imminent death of someone within.

leprechaun. Legend has it that if you caught one of these, he would lead you to a crock of gold, but take your eyes off him and he would vanish into thin air. The banshee was a female spirit whose wailing A banshee presence outside a house was said to signal

with long flowing hair Fianna possessed supernatural powers and often ventured into the life beyond, known as the Otherworld. Among these was Finn's son Ossian who was not only a formidable warrior, like his father, but was also renowned as a wise and knowledgeable poet. Through time, Finn has come to be commonly portrayed as a giant. Legend has it that he constructed the Giant's Causeway in County Antrim (see pp262–3).



A 19th-century engraving of Finn MacCool dressed for battle

#### THE CHILDREN OF LIR

One of the saddest tales in Irish folklore involves King Lir, who so adored his four children that their stepmother was driven wild with iealousy. One day she took the children to a lake and cast a spell on them, turning them into white swans confined to the waters of Ireland for 900 years. However, as soon as she had done the deed, she became racked with guilt and bestowed upon them the gift of exquisite



Engraving showing St Brendan and his monks encountering a siren



The children of King Lir being turned into white swans

king then decreed that no swan in Ireland should be killed – an act which is still illegal today. The end of the children's 900-year ordeal coincided with the coming of Christianity. They regained human form but were wizened and weak. They died soon afterwards, but not before being baptized.

### SAINT BRENDAN

Brendan the Navigator, like many other 6th-century monks, travelled widely. It is known that although he lived in western Ireland he visited Wales, Scotland and France. It is likely, though, that his most famous journey is fictitious. This story tells of a shipload of monks who, after seven years of all kinds of strange encounters designed to test their faith, found the Land of Promise. It is essentially a Christian retelling of the common tales of the Celtic Otherworld. The Feast of St Brendan on 16 May is celebrated in Kerry by the climbing of Mount Brandon.

# ORIGINS OF IRISH PLACE NAMES

The names of many of Ireland's cities, towns and villages today are largely based on ancient Gaelic terms for prominent local landmarks, some of which no longer exist. Here are just a few elements of the place names the traveller may come across.



The fort on the Rock of Cashel that gives the town its name

Ar, ard – high, height Ass, ess - waterfall A, ah, ath - ford Bal, bally -townBeg - small Ben - peak, mountain Carrick, carrig - rock Cashel - stone fort Crock, knock - bill Curra, curragh – marsh Darry, derry - oak tree Dun – castle Eden - bill brow Innis, inch - island Inver - river mouth Isk. iska - water Glas, glass - green Glen, glyn - valley Kil, kill - church Lough - lake, sea inlet Mona, mone - peat bog Mor - great, large Mullen, mullin - mill Rath, raha - ring fort Slieve - mountain Toom – burial ground Tul, tulagh - small bill



St Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny (the town's name means "church of Canice")

# The Sporting Year

All major international team sports are played in Ireland, but the most popular games are the two uniquely native ones of Gaelic football and hurling. Most of the big games, plus soccer and rugby internationals, are sold out well in advance. However, if you can't get a ticket you'll find plenty of company with whom to watch the event in pubs. Horse racing, with over 240 days of racing a year, attracts fanatical support. For those keen on participatory sports, there are also Ireland's famous fishing



The North West 200 is the fastest motorcycle race in the world over public roads – held near Portstewart (see p260).

May

waters and golf courses (see pp362–7).

**February** 

The Irish Grand National is a gruelling steeplechase run at Fairyhouse in County Meath.

March

Four-day national hunt racing festival at Punchestown Round-Ireland Yacht Race – held every two years

June

The International Rally of the Lakes is a prestigious car rally around the Lakes of Killarney (see pp162–3).

Irish Champion

Hurdle, run at Leopardstown, County Dublin

January

Start of the salmon fishing season



The Six Nations Rugby Tournament, between Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England,

between Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, France and Italy, runs until April. Ireland play their home games at Lansdowne Road, Dublin.

#### **KEY TO SEASONS**

- HurlingGaelic football
- Flat racing
- National Hunt racing
- Rugby
- Association football
- Salmon fishing
  - Equestrianism

Irish Football League Cup – Northern Ireland's final

The Irish Derby, Ireland's premier flat race, attracts many of Europe's best threeyear-olds to The Curragh (see p129).





Cork Week is a biennial regatta, organized by Royal Cork Yacht Club, where crews and boats of all classes meet and compete.

Galway Race Week is one of Ireland's premier festival meetings and a popular social event.



# The All-Ireland Football

Final is held at Croke Park in Dublin. The top two counties play for this Gaelic football championship. More people watch the game than any other event in Ireland.

Greyhound Derby, run at Shelbourne Park, Dublin



The Dublin Marathon is Ireland's foremost marathon event. It attracts a buge field including top-class athletes from around the world.

Football Association of Ireland Cup – the Republic's football final

Millstreet Indoor International showjumping event

July August September October November December



All-Ireland Hurling Final at Croke Park, Dublin

The Dublin Horse Show is Ireland's premier horse show and a major event in the social calendar.



The Irish Open Golf Championship is held at a different course each year and attracts a worldclass field to courses such as Ballybunion in County Kerry.

# THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The GAA was founded in 1884 to promote indigenous Irish sport. Today, despite heavy competition from soccer, the most popular sport in Ireland remains Gaelic football. Its rules are somewhere between rugby and soccer, though it predates both games. In it, the ball can be carried and points scored over the goalpost. Another intriguing GAA game is hurling, a fast and physical field sport played with sticks and said to have originated

to have originated in ancient Celtic times. Both games are played at parish and county level on a wholly amateur basis. The season ends with the All-Ireland finals, which draw large and passionate crowds to Dublin.

Camogie, a version of hurling played by women





# THE HISTORY OF IRELAND

reland's relative isolation has cut it off from several of the major events of European history. Roman legions, for example, never invaded and the country's early history is shrouded in myths of warring Gods and heroic High Kings. Nevertheless, the bellicose Celtic tribes were quick to embrace Christianity after the arrival of St Patrick on the island in AD 432.

Until the Viking invasions of the 9th century, Ireland enjoyed an era of relative peace. Huge

monasteries like Ĉlonmacnoise and Glendalough were founded, where scholarship and art flourished. The Vikings failed to gain control of the island, but in 1169 the Anglo-Normans did. Many Irish chiefs submitted to Henry II of England, who declared himself Lord of Ireland. He left in 1172, and his knights shared out large baronies between themselves.

Matters changed when Henry VIII broke with the Catholic church in 1532. Ireland became a battleground between native Irish Catholics and the forces of the English Crown. Where

the Irish were defeated, their lands were confiscated and granted to Protestants from England and Scotland. England's conquest was completed with the victory of William of Orange over James II at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. Repressive Penal Laws were put into place, but opposition to English rule continued.

2. The Famine of 1845 to 1848 was one of the bleakest periods in Irish history. Two million people died or emigrated, and many who

stayed were evicted by English landlords. A campaign for Home Rule gathered strength, but it was 1920 before the Government of Ireland Act divided the island. The South became the Irish Free State, gaining full independence in 1937, while the North became part of the UK. In the 1970s, 1980s and much of the 1990s, Northern Ireland was a battleground, with both Loyalist and Republican paramilitary groups waging bombing campaigns. In 1998, the Good Friday Agreement was signed, paving the way for a new Northern Ireland Assembly and hopes of peace.



Map of Ireland, printed in 1592, showing the four traditional provinces

# Prehistoric Ireland

Until about 9,500 years ago Ireland was uninhabited. The first people, who may have crossed by a land bridge from Scotland, were hunter-gatherers and left few traces of permanent settlement. The 4th millennium BC saw the arrival of Neolithic farmers and herdsmen who built stone field walls and

stone axe-head

monumental tombs such as Newgrange. Early Bronze Age Metalworking was brought from Europe around 2000 BC by the Bronze Age Beaker people, who also introduced new pottery skills. The Iron Age reached Ireland in the 3rd century BC along with the Celts, who migrated from Central Europe, via France and Britain, and soon established themselves as the dominant culture.



Former coastline

The terminal discs were worn on the shoulders.

Present-day coastline



## **Dolmens or Portal Tombs**

These striking megalithic tombs date from around 2000 BC. Legananny Dolmen in the Mountains of Mourne (see p284) is a fine example.



# **GLENINSHEEN GORGET**

Many remarkable pieces of gold jewellery were created in the late Bronze Age. This gold collar dates from about 700 BC. The Iron Age Celts produced similarly fine metalwork and ornaments.



#### Three strands of ropework

Wooden Idol This Iron Age fetish would have played a role in pagan fertility rites.



#### **Bronze Bridle Bit**

Celtic chiefs rode into battle on two-horse chariots with beautifully decorated barnesses.

# TIMELINE

8000 BC

c. 7500 BC First inhabitants of Ireland

special significance.

Extinct giant deer or "Irish Elk"

6000

5000-3000 Ireland covered by dense woodland dominated by oak and elm

4000

2500 Building of Newgrange passage tomb (see pp246-7)

2000

1500 Major advances in metalworking, especially gold

1000

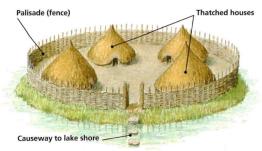
6000 Date of huts

excavated at Mount Sandel, Co Londonderry; oldest known dwellings in Europe

3700 Neolithic farmers reach Ireland; they clear woods to plant cereals

2050 Beaker people (so-called for their delicate pottery vessels) reach Ireland at the beginning of Bronze Age





#### Reconstruction of a Crannog

Originating in the Bronze Age, crannogs were artificial islands built in lakes. At first used for fishing, they soon developed into well-protected homesteads. Some remained in use up to the 17th century.

> The raised bands on the collar were created by repoussé work, pushed through from the back. The delicate rope motifs were added from the front with a knife.

> > **Bone Slip** (c.AD 50)This may have been used for divination or for gambling.

### **Gold Boat**

Part of a hoard of gold objects found at Broighter, County Londonderry, the boat (1st century AD) was made as a votive offering.

### WHERE TO SEE PREHISTORIC IRELAND

Prehistoric sites range from individual tombs such as Newgrange, Browne's Hill Dolmen (see p141) or Ossian's Grave to whole settlements, as at Céide Fields (p204) and Lough Gur (p194). The largest Stone Age cemetery is at Carrowmore (p234). Good reconstructions of prehistoric structures can be seen at Craggaunowen (p190) and the Ulster History Park (p269). The National Museum in Dublin (pp66-7) houses the finest collection of artifacts, including wonderful gold objects from the Bronze Age.



Newgrange (pp246-7) is Ireland's finest restored Neolithic tomb. At the entrance lie buge spiral-patterned boulders.



Ossian's Grave is a court grave, the earliest kind of Neolithic tomb (p267). An open court stood before the burial mound.

600 First wave of Celtic invaders

500 Intertribal warfare; chieftains vie for title of Ard Ri (High King)

AD 80 Roman general Agricola considers invasion of Ireland from Britain

AD 1

367 Roman Britain attacked by Irish, Picts and Saxons

750

500

250

AD 250

c. 150 Greek geographer Ptolemy draws up map and account of Ireland

Bronze goad decorated with birds



250 Second wave of Celts, who bring La Tène style of pottery

> Bronze sword bilt imported from southern France

## Celtic Christianity

alle as w

Celtic Ireland was divided into as many as 100 chiefdoms, though these often owed allegiance to kings of larger provinces such as Munster or Connaught. At times, there was also a titular High King based at Tara (see p248). Ireland became Christian in the 5th century AD, heralding a golden

Monk illuminating a manuscript

a manuscript age of scholarship centred on the new monasteries, while missionaries such as St Columba travelled abroad. At the end of the 8th century, Celtic Ireland was shattered by the arrival of the Vikings.



#### - INCLAIND IN

Viking settlements

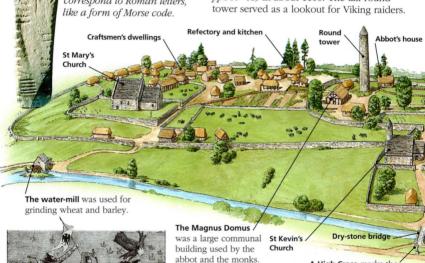
Traditional Irish provinces

## **Ogham Stone**The earliest Irish script.

Ogham, dates from about AD 300. The notches correspond to Roman letters, like a form of Morse code.

#### CELTIC MONASTERY

Monasteries were large centres of population. This reconstruction shows Glendalough (see pp140–41) in about 1100. The tall round tower served as a lookout for Viking raiders.



Battle of Clontarf

c. 550 Beginning

of golden age of Celtic monasticism

After their defeat by the Irish High King, Brian Ború, in 1014, the Vikings began to integrate more fully with the native population. Brian Ború himself was killed in the battle.

#### TIMELINE

**430** Pope sends first Christian missionary, Palladius 455 St Patrick founds church at Armagh

**563** St Columba (Colmcille), the first Irish missionary, founds monastery on Iona in the Hebrides

600

664 Synod of Whitby decides that Irish Church should conform with Rome over date of Easter

A High Cross marks the monastery boundary.

400 500

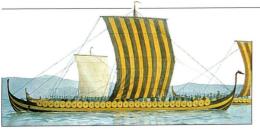
615 St Columbanus
dies in Italy after

dies in Italy after founding many new monasteries on the Continent

c. 690 Book of Durrow (see p63) completed

700

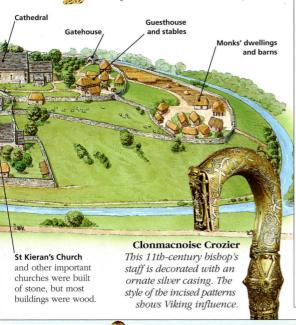
**432** Start of St Patrick's mission to Ireland



#### Viking Raids and Settlements

The first longships reached Ireland in 795. Though notorious for pillaging monasteries, the Vikings introduced new farming methods and coinage. They also founded walled cities such as Dublin, Waterford and Limerick.

Garryduff Gold Bird
Irish metalwork in the
early Christian era was of
very high quality. This gold
ornament, possibly a wren, dates
from around the 7th century AD.

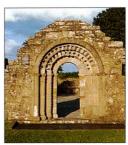


## WHERE TO SEE EARLY CHRISTIAN IRELAND

Important early monastic sites besides Glendalough include Clonmacnoise and Devenish Island. Churches from this period can also be seen at Gallarus (see p157), Clonfert (p213) and the Rock of Cashel (pp196-7), while High Crosses (p243) and round towers (p20) survive all over Ireland. Dublin's National Museum (pp66-7) has the best collection of ecclesiastical (and Viking) artifacts and Trinity College (pp62-4) houses the finest illuminated manuscripts.



Devenish Island has a fine 12th-century round tower and enjoys a peaceful setting on Lower Lough Erne (p271).



Clonmacnoise (pp250–51) lies on the east bank of the Shannon. This Romanesque doorway is part of the ruined Nuns' Church.

Viking silver broocb

795 First Viking invasion of coastal monasteries

967 Irish warriors sack Limerick and begin military campaign against Viking overlords

**999** Sitric Silkenbeard, the Viking king of Dublin, surrenders to Brian Ború 1166 Dermot McMurrough, King of Leinster, flees overseas

1134 Cormac's Chapel is built at Cashel (see pp196–7)

1100

**841** A large Viking fleet spends the winter at Dublin

1014 F of arm

900

1014 High King Brian Ború of Munster defeats joint army of Vikings and the King of Leinster at Clontarf

1000
Soria ioint ti the ntarf

1142 Ireland's first Cistercian house founded at Mellifont (see p245)

**807** Work starts on Kells monastery (see p241)

## Anglo-Norman Ireland



13th-century gold brooch

Anglo-Norman nobles, led by Richard de Clare (nicknamed Strongbow), were invited to Ireland by the King of Leinster in 1169. They took control of the major towns and Henry II of England proclaimed himself overlord of Ireland. In succeeding centuries, however, English power declined and the Crown controlled just a small area

around Dublin known as the Pale (see p132). Many of the Anglo-Norman barons living outsice the Pale opposed English rule just as strongly as did the native Irish clans.



**IRELAND IN 1488** 

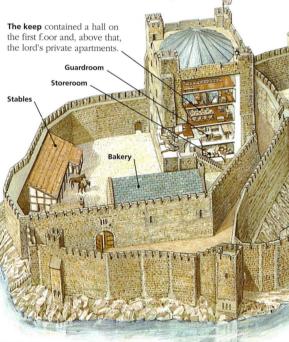
Extent of the Pale

#### CARRICKFERGUS CASTLE

The first Anglo-Norman forts were wooden structures, but they soon started to build massive stone castles. Carrickfergus (see p275) was begun in the 1180s and by 1250 had acquired a keep and a gatehouse.



daughter to Strongbow for belping him regain his lands. Daniel Maclise's painting (1854) emphasizes Anglo-Norman power over the Irish



#### Norman Weapons

These bows and arrows. unearthed at Waterford, may be relics of Strongbow's assault on the city in 1170.

#### TIMELINE

1172 Pope affirms King Henry II of England's lordship over Ireland

1177 John de Courcy's forces invade Ulster

Dermot McMurrough, King of Leinster, who invited Strongbow to come to his aid 1318 Bruce killed in battle

1315 Scots invade Ireland; Edward Bruce crowned king

1200

1250

1300

1169 Strongbow's Anglo-Normans arrive at invitation of exiled King of Leinster, Dermot McMurrough

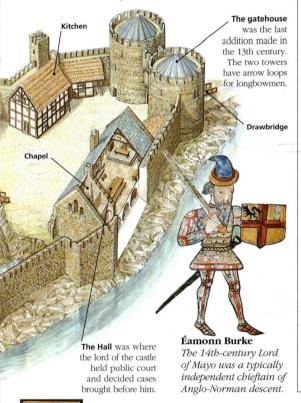
1224 Dominican order enters Ireland and constructs friaries

1260 Powerful Irish chieftain Brian O'Neill killed at the Battle of Down

**1297** First Irish Parliament meets in Dublin



Richard II's Fleet Returning to England in 1399 Richard made two trips to Ireland - in 1394 and 1399. On the first he defeated Art McMurrough, King of Leinster, and other Irish chiefs, but the second was inconclusive.



### WHERE TO SEE ANGLO-NORMAN IRELAND

The strength of Norman fortifications is best seen in the castles at Carrickfergus. Limerick (see p191) and Trim (p248) and in Waterford's city walls. Gothic cathedrals that survive include Dublin's Christ Church (pp80-81) and St Patrick's (pp82-3) and St Canice's (p144) in Kilkenny. There are impressive ruins of medieval Cistercian abbeys at Jerpoint and Boyle (p219).



Jerpoint Abbey (p145) bas a well-preserved 15th-century cloister decorated with carvings of curiously elongated figures.



Waterford's Anglo-Norman city walls include this sturdy watchtower (pp146-7).



Great Charter Roll of Waterford (1372) showing portraits of the mayors of four medieval cities

1394 King Richard II lands with army to reassert control; returns five years later but with inconclusive results

1496 Kildare regains Lord Deputy position

1491 Kildare supports Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the English throne

1487 Kildare crowns Lambert

1471 8th Earl of Kildare made Lord Deputy of Ireland

1350

1366 Statutes of Kilkenny forbid marriage between Anglo-Normans and Irish

1348 The Black Death: one third of population killed in three years



1450

Simnel, Edward VI in Dublin English forces (left) confront Irish horsemen on Richard II's

return expedition

1494 Lord Deputy Edward Poynings forbids Irish Parliament to meet without royal consent

## **Protestant Conquest**

Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone

England's break with the Catholic Church. the dissolution of the monasteries and Henry VIII's assumption of the title King of Ireland incensed both the old Anglo-Norman dynasties and resurgent Irish clans such as the O'Neills. Resistance to foreign rule was fierce and it took over 150 years

of war to establish the English Protestant ascendancy. Tudor and Stuart monarchs adopted a policy of military persuasion, then Plantation. Oliver Cromwell was even more forceful. Irish hopes were raised when the Catholic James II ascended to the English throne, but he was deposed and fled to Ireland, where he was defeated by William of Orange (William III) in 1690.



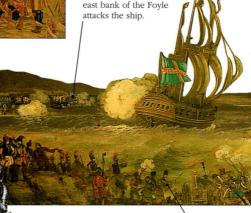
#### **IRELAND IN 1625**

Main areas of Plantation in the reign of James I

The first relief ship to reach Londonderry was the Phoenix. For three months English ships had been prevented from sailing up the Foyle by a wooden barricade across the river.



This tapestry, from the Bank of Ireland (see p60), shows William of Orange leading bis troops against the army of James II in 1690. His victory is still celebrated by Orangemen in Northern Ireland.



James II's army on the

## Silken Thomas Fitzgerald

Silken Thomas, head of the powerful Kildares, renounced his allegiance to Henry VIII in 1534. He was hanged along with his five uncles in 1537.

The artist's depiction of 17thcentury weapons and uniforms is far from accurate.

### TIMELINE

Henr



1541 Henry VIII declared King of Ireland by Irish Parliament

Sir Thomas Lee, an officer in Elizabeth I's army, dressed in Irish fashion

1550



1585 Ireland is mapped and divided into 32 counties

1592 Trinity College, Dublin founded

1600

1500

1534 Silken Thomas

1525

rebels against Henry VIII

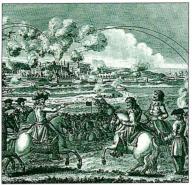
1504 8th Earl of Kildare becomes master of Ireland after victory at Knocktoe

1539 Henry VIII dissolves monasteries

1557 Mary I orders first plantations in Offaly and Laois 1575 1582

Desmond rebellion in Munster

1588 Spanish Armada wrecked off west coast



The Siege of Drogheda

Between 1649 and 1652 Cromwell's army avenged attacks on Protestant settlers with ruthless efficiency. Here Cromwell himself directs the gunners bombarding Drogheda.

#### The Siege of Drogneda

The Walls of Derry have never been breached by any attacker and many of the original 17th-century gates and

bastions that withstood the siege of

#### PLANTATION IRELAND

James I realized that force alone could not stabilize Ireland. The Plantation programme uprooted the native Irish and gave their land to Protestant settlers from England and Scotland. London livery companies organized many of the new settlements. The policy created loyal garrisons who supported the Crown.



Bellaghy in County Londonderry was settled by the Vintners Company. This map of the neatly planned town dates from 1622.

Protestants emerge from the besieged city to greet the English relieving force and to engage the enemy.

## Loftus Cup Adam Loftus, Chancellor of Ireland, used his position to enrich

Ireland, used bis position to enrich bis family. In 1593 be bad the Great Seal of Ireland melted down and made into this silver-gilt cup.



#### THE RELIEF OF DERRY (1689)

Some 20,000 Protestants were besieged for 105 days in Londonderry by James II's forces. Thousands died from starvation, until relief finally came from English warships. This 18th-century painting by William Sadler II gives a rather fanciful picture of the ending of the siege.

**1607** Flight of the Earls: old Irish leaders flee to the Continent; Plantation of Ulster

**1632** Important Irish history, The Annals of the Four Masters, written by four Franciscan friars from Donegal

Protestant apprentice boys closing the gates of Derry before the siege of 1689



**1690** William of Orange defeats James II at Battle of the Boyne; James's army surrenders the following year in Limerick

1700

1625

**1603** Earl of Tyrone ends eight years of war by signing

the Treaty of Mellifont

1650

1688 James II, deposed Catholic king of England, flees to Ireland and raises army

1695 Penal code severely reduces rights of Roman Catholics

**1641** Armed rebellion in Ulster opposes Plantation

1649 Cromwell lands in Dublin; razes Drogheda and Wexford; Catholic landowners transplanted to far west

1689 Siege of Derry

## Georgian Ireland

Lacquer

cabinet in

Castletown House

The Protestant ascendancy was a period of great prosperity for the landed gentry, who built grand country houses and furnished them luxuriously. Catholics, meanwhile.

were denied even the right to buy land. Towards the end of the century, radicals. influenced by events in America and France, started to demand independence from the English Crown. Prime Minister Henry Grattan tried a parliamentary route; Wolfe Tone and the United Irishmen opted for

**IRELAND IN 1703** 

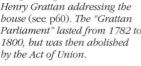
Counties where Protestants owned over 75 per cent of land

armed insurrection. Both approaches ultimately failed.

The Irish House of Commons

## This painting shows Irish leader Henry Grattan addressing the house (see p60). The "Grattan Parliament" lasted from 1782 to 1800, but was then abolished

The basement contains the servants' hall, the kitchen, pantry and wine cellar.





The 18th century saw work begin on ambitious projects such as the Grand Canal, new roads and Dublin's network of wide streets and squares.

**State Bedroom** 

The saloon, the Casino's main room, was used for formal entertaining. It has a magnificent parquet floor.

> Stone lions by **Edward Smyth** (1749 - 1812)



TIMELINE

Jonathan Swift (1667-1745

1710



1724 Swift attacks Ireland's penal code in A Modest Proposal **1731** Royal Dublin Society founded to encourage agriculture art and crafts

1730

1738 Death of Ireland's most famous harper, Turlough O'Carolan (see p24)

1740

1720

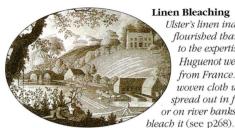
1750

1713 Jonathan Swift appointed Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral (see p82)

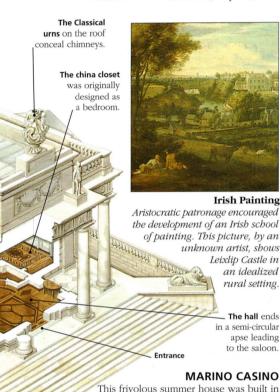
1731 First :ssue of the Belfast Newsletter, the world's oldest continually running newspaper

1742 First performance of Handel's Messiah given in Dublin

1751 Dublin's Rotunda Lying-In Hospital is first maternity hospital in the British Isles



Ulster's linen industry flourished thanks to the expertise of Huguenot weavers from France. The woven cloth was spread out in fields or on river banks to



the 1760s for the first Earl of Charlemont on his estate just north of Dublin (see p100). Palladian architecture of this kind was popular among the Irish aristocracy, who followed 18th-century English fashions.

#### WHERE TO SEE GEORGIAN IRELAND

Dublin preserves many fine Georgian terraces and public buildings such as the Custom House (see p88) and the Four Courts (p93). Around Dublin, the grand houses at Castletown (pp130-31), Russborough and Powerscourt (pp134-5) are fascinating reminders of the lifestyle of the gentry. Other 18th-century country seats open to the public include Emo Court, Westport House (pp204–05) and Castle Coole (p272).



Emo Court's façade, with its plain Ionic portico, is by James Gandon, architect of many of Dublin's public buildings (p253).



Russborough House (p132) was built in 1741 by Richard Castle. Elegant niches with Classical busts flank the grand fireplace in the entrance hall.



Guinness Brewery Gate

1782 Parliament gains greater degree of independence from Westminster

The Irish Volunteers, a local militia which pressed Parliament for reform



1798 Rebellion of Wolfe Tone's United Irishmen quashed

1770

1780

1791 James Gandon's

1793 Limited emancipation for Irish Catholics **1795** Orange Order formed by Ulster Protestants

1759 Arthur Guinness buys the St James's Gate Brewery in Dublin



## Famine and Emigration



Ration card from Famine period

The history of 19th-century Ireland is dominated by the Great Famine of 1845-8, which was caused by the total failure of the potato crop. Although Irish grain was still being exported to England, around one million people died from hunger or disease, with even more fleeing to North America. By 1900, the pre-famine population of eight million had fallen by half. Rural hardship fuelled a campaign for tenants' rights which evolved into

demands for independence from Britain. Great strides towards "Home Rule" were made in Parliament by the charismatic politician Charles Stewart Parnell.



#### **IRELAND IN 1851**

Areas where population fell by over 25% during the Famine

The ships that brought the Irish to America were overcrowded and fever-ridden. and known as "coffin ships"



O'Connell organized peaceful "monster rallies" of up to a million people in pursuit of Catholic emancipation. He was elected MP for Clare in 1828.

> Castle Clinton was used for processing new arrivals to New York prior to the construction of the huge depot on Ellis Island.



In 1880, troops guarded the crops of Captain Boycott, the first notable victim of a campaign to ostracize landlords guilty of evicting tenants. His name later passed into the English language.

The Boycotting of Landlords

#### TIMELINE



1815 First coach service begins in Ireland

> 1817 Royal Canal is completed

1838 Father Mathew founds temperance crusade - five million Irish take abstinence pledge and whiskey production is reduced by half

1845 Start of Great Famine. which lasts for four years

1810

1820

1840 Father Mathem

1803 Uprising, led by Robert Emmet, is crushed after feared Napoleonic invasion of England fails to materialize

1800 Act of Union: Ireland legally becomes part of Britain 1828 After a five-year campaign by Daniel O'Connell, Catholic Emancipation Act is passed, giving a limited number of Catholics the right to vote



#### **Eviction of Irish Farmers**

In the late 1870s, agricultural prices plummeted. Starving tenant farmers fell into arrears and were mercilessly evicted. Their plight spawned the Land League, which lobbied successfully for reform.



#### IMMIGRANTS ARRIVE IN NEW YORK

The Irish who survived the journey to America landed at Castle Garden in New York, seen here in a painting by Samuel Waugh (1855). Although mainly country people, most new arrivals settled in Manhattan, often enduring horrific living conditions.

#### THE IRISH ABROAD

One result of the Famine was the growth of a strong Irish community in the USA. From the lowest rung of American society, the immigrants rose up the social scale and became rich by Irish Catholic standards. They sent money to causes back home, and as a well-organized lobby group put pressure on the American government to influence British policies in Ireland. A more militant group, Clan na Gael, sent veterans of the American Civil War to fight in the Fenian risings of 1865 and 1867.



New Yorkers stage a huge St Patrick's Day parade, 17 March 1870.

The Irish were widely perceived as illiterate peasants in the USA and often met with a hostile reception.



#### **Charles Stewart Parnell**

A campaigner for the Land League and Home Rule, Parnell saw his political career ruined in 1890, when he was cited as corespondent in a divorce case.

1853 Dublin Exhibition is opened by Queen Victoria



Dublin Exhibition

1870

1877 Parnell becomes leader of the new Home Rule Party

1884 Founding of Gaelic Athletic Association, first group to promote Irish traditions

1880

1892 Second Home Rule Bill is defeated

1850

1867 Irish-Americans return home to fight in a rising led by the Irish Republican Brotherhood, also known as the Fenians

1848 Failure of the Young Ireland Uprising - a spontaneous response to insurrections elsewhere in Europe 1879-82 Land War, led by Michael Davitt's Land League, campaigns for the reform of tenancy laws

1881 Parnell is jailed in Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin

1886 British PM Gladstone sponsors first Home Rule Bill but is defeated by Parliament

1890

## War and Independence



Irish Free State stamp of 1922

Plans for Irish home rule were shelved because of World War I; however, the abortive Easter Rising of 1916 inspired new support for the Republican cause. In 1919 an unofficial Irish Parliament was established and a war began against the "occupying" British forces. The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 divided the island in two, granting independence to the

Irish Free State, while Northern Ireland remained in the United Kingdom. There followed a civil war between pro-Treaty and anti-Treaty factions in the South.



Northern Ireland

Irish Free State

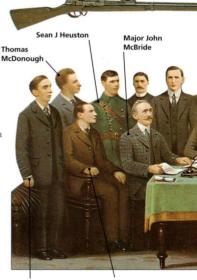


#### The Unionist Party

Leader of the campaign against Home Rule was Dublin barrister Edward Carson. In 1913 the Ulster Volunteer Force was formed to demand that six counties in Ulster remain part of the UK.

#### The 1916 Service Medal,

issued to all who fought in the Easter Rising, depicts, on one side, the mythical Irish warrior Cúchulainn.



William Pearse

#### The Black and Tans

Named for their makeshift uniforms, these British troops - mostly demobbed World War I soldiers - carried out savage reprisals against the Irish in 1920-21.

Patrick Pearse, a poet, read the Proclamation of the Republic from the steps of the GPO on Easter Monday.

#### TIMELINE

The Titanic

1913 General strike in Dublin

1912 Belfast-built Titanic sinks or, her maiden voyage

1918 Sinn Féin wins 73 seats at Westminster: Constance Markievicz elected first woman MP

1915

1916 Easter Rising quashed 1919 First meeting of the independent parliament (Dáil Éireann)

Theatre opens

1910

1920 Government of Ireland Act proposes partition of the island

1905 Sinn Féin (We Ourselves) party founded 1904 Dublin's Abbey

1912 Edward Carson rallies Ulster Protestants; solemn covenant to defeat Home Rule signed by 471,414 people

> Despatch bag carried by Constance Markievicz during Easter Rising

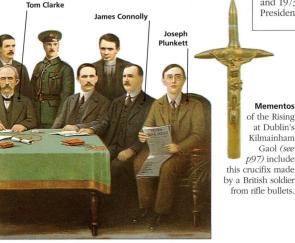
1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty signed; de Valera resigns; southern Ireland plunged into civil war



#### The General Post Office, Easter 1916

What was supposed to be a national uprising was confined to 2,500 armed insurgents in Dublin. They managed to hold the GPO and other public buildings for five days.

> This Mauser rifle, smuggled in from Germany in 1914, was used by rebels in the Rising.



# **LEADERS OF THE 1916 RISING**

This collage portrait shows 14 leaders of the Easter Rising, who were all court-martialled and shot at Kilmainham Gaol. The brutality of their executions (the badly injured James Connolly was tied to a chair before being shot) changed public opinion of the Rising and guaranteed their status as martyrs.

### **FAMON DE VALERA** (1882 - 1975)

After escaping execution for his part in the Easter Rising, American-born de Valera went on to dominate Irish politics for almost 60 years. The opposition of his party, Sinn Féin, to the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 plunged the new Irish Free State into civil war. After forming

Fáil, he became Prime Minister (Taoiseach) in 1932. De Valera remained in office until 1948, with further terms in the 1950s. Between 1959 and 1973 he was

Mementos of the Rising at Dublin's Kilmainham Gaol (see p97) include





#### **Election Poster**

Cumann na nGaedheal, the pro-Treaty party in the Civil War, won the Free State's first general election in 1923. It merged with other parties in 1933 to form Fine Gael.

1922 Irish Free State inaugurated; Michael Collins shot dead in ambush in Co Cork



Michael Collins (1890-1922), bero of the War of Independence, became chairman of the Irish Free State and Commanderin-Chief of the Army

1932 Fianna Fáil sweeps to victory in general election, and de Valera begins 16-year term as Taoiseach (Prime Minister)

1936 IRA proscribed by Free State Government

> 1939 Éire declares neutrality during World War II

1925

1935

**1923** WB Yeats wins Nobel prize for Literature

1926 De Valera quits Sinn Féin; sets up Fianna Fáil (Soldiers of Destiny) party

1925 GB Shaw also receives Nobel prize

1929 Work starts on River Shannon hydro-electric power scheme

1930

1933 Fine Gael (United Ireland) party formed to oppose Fianna Fáil

1937 New constitution declares complete independence from Britain; country's name changes to Éire

## Modern Ireland



Mary Robinson, Ireland's first woman President

Since joining the European Economic Community (now called the European Union) in 1973, the Irish Republic has done much to modernize its traditional rural-based economy. There have been social changes too, and laws prohibiting abortion and divorce have slowly been relaxed. Meanwhile, Northern Ireland has lived through more than 25 years of bombings and shootings. But recent peace agreements have brought new hope to the province, especially since the inauguration in 1998 of the new Northern Ireland Assembly.

1972 Bloody Sunday – British soldiers shoot dead 13 demonstrators in Derry. Northern Ireland Parliament is suspended and direct rule from Westminster imposed



1976 Organizers of the Ulster Peace Movement, Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams, are awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo



1956 IRA launches a terrorism campaign along the border with Northern Ireland which lasts until 1962 1969 Violent clashes between the police and demonstrators in Belfast and Derry. British troops sent to restore order

1967 Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association is set up to fight discrimination against Catholics

NORTHERN IRELAND

1955

1965

1975

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

1949 New government under John A Costello. Country changes name from Eire to Republic of Ireland and leaves British Commonwealth

> 1955 Republic of Ireland joins United Nations

1959 Eamon de Valera resigns as *Taoiseach* (Prime Minister) and is later elected President



**1947** Statue of Queen Victoria is removed from the courtyard in front of the Irish Parliament in Dublin



1963 John F Kennedy, the first American President of Irish CatŁolic descent, visits Ireland. He is pictured here with President Eamon de Valera



1973 The Republic joins the European Economic Community. Membership has given the country access to muchneeded development grants



1969 Samuel Beckett, seen here rehearsing one of his own plays, is awarded the Nobel prize for literature, but does not go to Stockholm to receive it

**1981** Hunger-striker Bobbie Sands dies in Maze Prison



1985 Barry McGuigan beats the Panamanian, Eusebio Pedroza, for world featherweight boxing title

1986 Bitter Loyalist opposition follows the previous year's signing by the British and Irish governments of the Anglo-Irish Agreement

> 1987 IRA bomb explodes during Enniskillen's Remembrance Day parade, killing 11 people

**1994** IRA and Unionist ceasefires. Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin leader, allowed to speak on British radio and television



**1998** The Good Friday Agreement sets out proposed framework for self-government in Northern Ireland

2001 David Trimble resigns as first minister, but is later re-elected. The beginning of a tortuous period of suspended talks and return to Westminster's direct rule

> **2002** Sinn Féin's offices at Stormont are raided in an alleged intelligence-gathering operation

> > **2005** The IRA announces an end to its armed campaign, saying it will follow an exclusively democratic path

1985

1995

1995 For the

first time in

there are no

25 years,

troops on

daylight

patrols in

Northern

Ireland

NORTHERN IRELAND 2005

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

1982 Rising debt and unemployment lead to economic crisis and instability. Three elections are held in two years



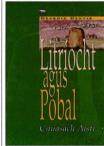
1979 Pope John Paul II visits Ireland and celebrates Mass in Dublin's Phoenix Park, in front of more than a million people



1994 Republic of Ireland football team reaches quarterfinals of World Cup in the USA. Here, Ray Houghton is congratulated on scoring the winning goal against Italy

**1991** Mary Robinson becomes first female President of the Republic, succeeded by Mary McAleese in 1998

**1988** Dublin's millennium is celebrated, boosting the city's image



**2005** Foreign ministers of the European Union unanimously agree to make Irish an official language of the EU

**2002** The single European currency, the euro, replaces Irish punt notes and coins. Initially, the euro was introduced in 1999 for banking purposes



**1987** Dubliner Steven Roche wins the Tour de France, Giro d'Italia and World Championship in one incredible season

## IRELAND THROUGH THE YEAR

opular months for visiting Ireland are July and August, though Belfast tends to close down in July for the marching season. June and September can be pleasant but never count on the weather, for Ireland's lush beauty is the product of a wet climate. Most tourist sights are open from Easter to September but have restricted opening hours or close in the low season. During spring and summer, festivals are held in

honour of everything from food to religion. A common thread is music, and few festivities are complete without musical accompaniment. Ireland is at its best when it has something to celebrate, so is an inspired choice for Christmas and New Year. Look out for the word fleadh (festival) on your travels but remember, too, that the Irish are a spontaneous people: festivities can spring from the air, or from a tune on a fiddle.

Ladies' Day at Dublin **Horse Show** 



Dublin's annual parade to celebrate St Patrick's Day (17 March)

#### SPRING

St Patrick's Day is often said to mark the beginning of the tourist season. Later, the spring bank holiday weekend in May, when accommodation is in short supply, is celebrated with music in most places. After the quiet winter months, festivals and events start to become more common.

#### MARCH

St Patrick's Day (17 Mar). Parades and pilgrimages held at Downpatrick, Armagh, Dublin, Cork, Limerick and many other places.

Jameson International **Dublin Film Festival** (Mar). International film festival.

**Horse Ploughing** Match and Heavy Horse Show, Ballycastle (17 Mar, see p266). This popular annual competition is more than 100 years old.

#### APRIL

Feis Ceoil, Dublin (end Mar or early Apr). A classical music festival held at many different venues throughout the city. Pan Celtic Festival, Tralee (mid-Apr, see p156). A lively celebration of Celtic culture, with music, dance and song. Cork Choral Festival (late Apr-May, see pp174-5).

#### MAY

**Belfast Civic Festival and Lord** Mayor's Show (mid-May, see pp276-9). Street parade with bands and floats.

Royal Ulster Agriculture Society Show. Belfast (mid-May). A three-day show with diverse events ranging from sheep-shearing competitions to fashion shows.

A Taste of Baltimore" Shellfish Festival (end May, see p170).

A St Patrick's Day float advertising Guinness

Fleadh Nua, Ennis, end May, see p189). Four days of traditional Irish music. songs and dance.

#### SUMMER

For the visitor, summer represents the height of the festive calendar. This is the busiest time of year for organized events, from music and arts festivals to lively local race meetings, summer schools and matchmaking festivals. Book accommodation if your plans include a popular festival.



Beach races at Laytown (June)

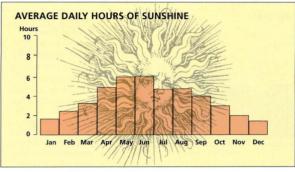
Laytown Beach Races, Co

#### JUNE

Meath (late May or early Jun). Horse races on the sand. County Wicklow Garden Festival (May-Jul). Held at private and public gardens around the county, including Powerscourt (see pp134-5). National Country Fair, Birr Castle Demesne, Co Offaly (early Jun, see p253). One of Ireland's most popular

Women's Mini Marathon, Dublin City (early Jun). Bloomsday, Dublin (16 Jun). Lectures, pub talks, readings, dramatizations and walks to celebrate James Joyce's greatest novel, Ulysses.

country fairs.



#### Sunshine Chart

The chart gives figures for Dublin, though conditions are similar around the country. The Southeast enjoys more sunshine hours than any other part of Ireland, while Northern Ireland receives marginally fewer hours of sun than the Republic.

Scurlogstown Olympiad Celtic Festival, Trim (mid-Jun, see p248). Traditional Irish music, dance, fair and selection of a festival queen.

Music in Great Irish Houses (first two weeks). Classical music recitals in grand settings at various venues.

**Castle Ward Opera**, Strangford *(all month, see p284)*. Opera festival in the grounds of 18th-century stately home.

County Wexford Strawberry Fair, Enniscorthy (end Junearly Jul, see p149). Includes a craft fair, music, street theatre and, of course, strawberries.

#### JULY

Battle of the Boyne Day (12 Jul, see p.244). Members of the Orange Order march in towns across Northern Ireland to celebrate the Protestants' landmark victory over King James II's Catholic army in 1690.

Galway Arts Festival (third & fourth weeks, see pp210-11). Processions, concerts, street theatre, children's shows and many other events in the medieval city centre. Followed



Steam-engine at Stradbally Rally (August)



Traditional sailing craft in the Cruinniú na mBád at Kinvarra (August)

Orangemen parading on

Battle of the Boyne Day

immediately by Galway's popular five-day race meeting.

Mary from Dungloe International Festival, Dungloe (last week, see p228).

Dancing, music and selection of "Mary", the beauty queen.

Lughnasa Fair,
Carrickfergus
Castle (end Jul, see p275). A popular medieval-style fair.

medieval-style fair.

Ballyshannon
International Folk
Festival (end Jul or early Aug, see
p231). Three days

of traditional Irish music.

O'Carolan Harp and Traditional Music Festival, Keadue, Co Roscommon (end ful or early Aug). Traditional music and dance celebrations.

#### AUGUST

**Stradbally Steamengine Rally**, Co Laois (*early Aug*). Many types of steam-engine join this rally.

Letterkenny Folk Festival, Co Donegal (early Aug, see p227). A week of celebration. Dublin Horse Show (first or second week). A premier

showjumping competition and social event. **Puck Fair**, Killorglin, Co
Kerry (*mid-Aug*, *see p165*). A wild goat is

crowned "king" at

traditional festival.

Blessing of the Sea (second or third Sunday). Held in seaside towns all over Ireland.

this two-day-long

Oul' Lammas Fair, Ballycastle (mid-

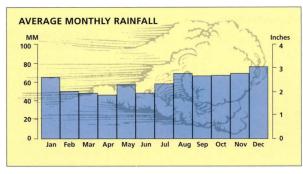
end Aug, see p266). A popular fair that is particularly famous for its edible seaweed.

Kilkenny Arts Week (middle of the month, see pp142–3). A major arts festival including poetry, film and crafts.

Rose of Tralee Festival, (end

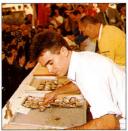
Aug, see p156). Bands, processions, dancing and selection of the "Rose".

Cruinniú na mBád, Kinvarra (end Aug, see pp211–12). Various types of traditional sailing craft take part in this "gathering of the boats".



#### Rainfall Chart

Ireland is one of the wettest countries in Europe, with rainfall distributed evenly through the year-the figures displayed here are for Dublin. The West has the heaviest annual rainfall, while the Southeast receives marginally less rain than other regions.



Galway Oyster Festival (September)

#### Light Opera (mid-Sep early Oct, see p359). Musicals and operettas

#### All-Ireland Football Final, Croke Park, Dublin (3rd

at the Theatre Royal.

ing Festival (all month and first week of Oct, see p188). Singles gather for traditional music and dance Waterford International Festival of

Sunday, see p29). Gaelic football final.

Galway Oyster Festival (end Sep, see pp210-11). Ovster tastings at different venues.



All-Ireland Hurling at Croke Park, Dublin

#### AUTUMN

Oysters and opera are the two big events in autumn. There are also festivals devoted to jazz, film and music. The October bank holiday weekend is celebrated with music in many towns; though it is low season, it can be difficult to find accommodation.

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Heritage Week (early Sep). Special events countrywide. All-Ireland Hurling Final, Croke Park, Dublin (first or second Sunday, see p29).

# OCTOBER

Octoberfest, Londonderry (all month, see pp258-9). Dance, poetry, film, comedy, theatre and music. **Cork Film Festival** 

(early Oct, see pp174-5). Irish and international films.

Kinsale International Festival of Fine Food (early Oct, see pp172-3). Superb food served in restaurants hotels and pubs of Kinsale.

Ballinasloe Fair, Co Galway (first week). One of Europe's oldest horse fairs, staged amid lively street entertainment.

**Dublin Theatre Festival** (first two weeks). Features works

by both Irish and foreign playwrights.

**Wexford Opera** Festival (last two weeks in Oct. see p.359). A festival of lesser known operas. Hallowe'en (Shamhana) (31 Oct). An

occasion celebrated all over the country. Cork Jazz Festival

(end Oct, see pp174-5). An extremely popular festival, with music throughout the city.



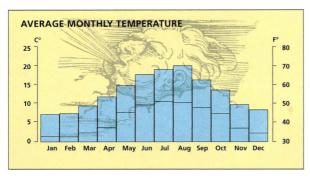
Horse and trap at Lisdoonvarna fair

#### NOVEMBER

Sligo International Choral Festival (early Nov, see p234). Choirs from around the world in concert and competition. Belfast Festival at Queen's, Queen's University (end Oct to early Nov. see pp276-9). Arts festival featuring drama, ballet, cinema and all types of music from classical to jazz. Éigse Sliabh Rua, Slieverue, Co Kilkenny (mid Nov). Festival of local history and music with special guests and interesting talks.



Traditional horse fair at Ballinasloe in County Galway (October)



#### **Temperature Chart**

This chart gives the average minimum and maximum temperatures for the city of Dublin. Winter is mild throughout Ireland, except in the high mountain ranges, while the warmest summer temperatures are in the Southeast.

#### WINTER

Although a quiet time for festivals, there's a range of entertainment including musical and theatrical events. Christmas is the busiest social period and there are plenty of informal celebrations. There is also a wide choice of National Hunt race meetings (see p28).

#### **DECEMBER**

Pantomime Season (Dec-Jan). Traditional pantomime performed at many theatres throughout Ireland.

Leopardstown Races (26 Dec, see p129). The biggest meeting held on this traditional day for racing. There are other fixtures at Limerick and Down Royal.

St Stephen's Day (26 Dec).
Catholic boys traditionally dress up as Wren boys (chimney sweeps with blackened faces) and sing hymns to raise money for charitable causes.



Young boys dressed up as Wren boys on St Stephen's Day

#### **JANUARY**

Salmon and Sea Trout Season (1 Jan–end Sep, see pp362–3). Season begins for one of Ireland's most popular pastimes.

#### **FEBRUARY**

**Dublin Film Festival** (end Feb-early Mar). International films at various venues. **Belfast Music Festival** (end

Feb-mid-Mar). Young people take part in music (and speech and drama) competitions.

Six Nations Rugby Tournament, Lansdowne Road, Dublin (varying Saturdays Feb-Apr, see p.28).

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS New Year's Day (1 Jan)

St Patrick's Day (17 Mar) Good Friday Easter Monday May Day (first Mon in May) Spring Bank Holiday (Northern Ireland: last Mon in May) June Bank Holiday (Rep-

ublic: first Mon in Jun)

Battle of the Boyne Day
(Northern Ireland: 12 Jul)

August Bank Holiday (first
Mon in Aug)

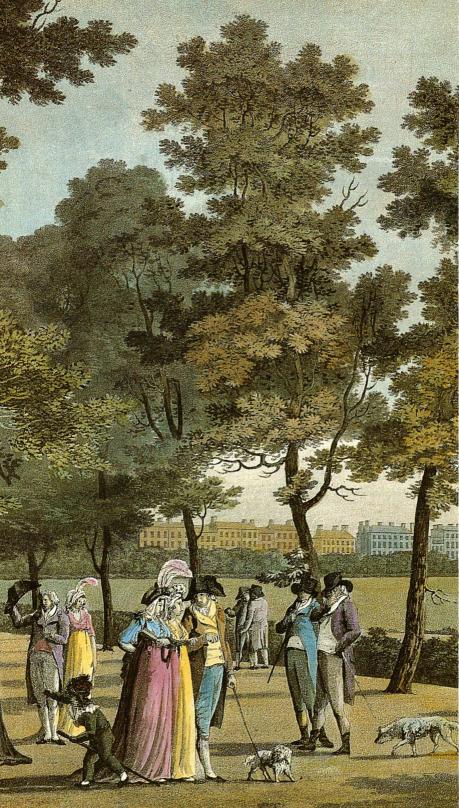
Summer Bank Holiday
(Northern Ireland: last

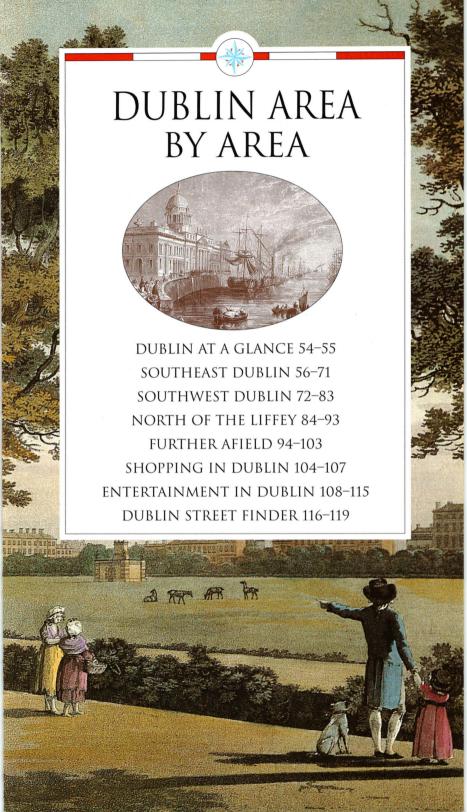
Mon in Aug)
October Bank Holiday (last Mon in Oct)
Christmas Day (25 Dec)

Christmas Day (25 Dec) St Stephen's Day (Republic: 26 Dec) Boxing Day (Northern Ireland: 26 Dec)



Glendalough (see pp140-41) in the snow

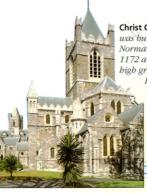




## Dublin at a Glance

Ireland's capital has a wealth of attractions, most within walking distance of each other. For the purpose of this guide, central Dublin has been divided into three sections: *Southeast Dublin*, heart of the modern city and home to the prestigious Trinity College; *Southwest Dublin*, site of the old city around Dublin Castle; and *North of the Liffey*, the area around the imposing O'Connell Street. The map references given for sights in the city refer to the *Dublin Street Finder* on pages 118–119.





Christ Church Cathedral
was built by Dublin's AngloNorman conquerors between
1172 and 1220. It stands on
bigb ground above the River
Liffey. Much of the
cathedral's present
appearance is due

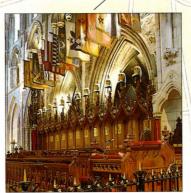
agey, such of the cathedral's present appearance is due to restoration carried out in the 1870s. (See pp80–81.)

NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Pages 84–93

> SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Pages 72–83

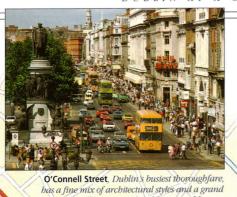


Dublin Castle stands in the heart of old Dublin. St Patrick's Hall is part of the suite of luxury State Apartments housed on the upper floors on the south side of the castle. Today, these rooms are used for functions of national importance such as presidential inaugurations. (See pp76–7.)



#### St Patrick's Cathedral

bas a spectacular cboir featuring banners and stalls decorated with the insignia of the Knights of St Patrick. The cathedral also bolds Ireland's largest and most powerful organ, as well as memorials to Dean Jonathan Swift and prominent Anglo-Irish families. (See pp82–3.)



O'Connell Street, Dublin's busiest thoroughfare, bas a fine mix of architectural styles and a grand central mall punctuated with statutes of famous Irisb citizens and the 120-m (394-ft) Monument of Light spire. Just off O'Connell Street, on Moore Street, is a lively market. (See pp88–9.)



#### The Custom House,

a classic Georgian public utilding by James Gandon, was built between 1781 and 1791. The sculpted heads on the keystones are personifications of the rivers of Ireland; the one shown above represents the River Foyle. (See p88.)

Trinity College is bome to the Old Library which contains priceless illuminated manuscripts. These include the Book of Durrow which dates from the middle of the 7th century.

(See pp62-4.)



0 metres

0 yards



Gallery was opened in 1864. Housed on two floors, it bolds an eefectic collection, particularly strong on frish and Italian works. The gallery's most prized painting is Caravaggio's the Faking of Christ. The new Millennium Wing has over 500 works on display (See pp70–71.)



The National Museum bas an impressive collection of artifacts dating from the Stone Age to the 20th century. The Ardagh Chalice (c.AD 800) is one of the many Celtic Christian treasures on display. (See pp66–7.)



## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN

**Merrion Square** 

espite its location close to the old walled city, this part of Dublin remained virtually undeveloped until the founding of Trinity College in 1592. Even then, it was almost a hundred years before the ancient common land further south was enclosed to create St Stephen's Green, Georgian doorknocker in a spacious city park.

The mid-18th century saw the beginning of a construction boom in the area. During this time, magnificent public buildings such as the Old Library at Trinity College, Leinster House and the Bank of Ireland were built. However, the most conspicuous reminders of Georgian Dublin are the beautiful squares and terraces around

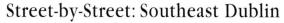


Today, Southeast Dublin is very much the tourist heart of the city: few visitors can resist the lively atmosphere and attractive shops of Grafton Street. The area is also home to much of Ireland's

cultural heritage. The National Gallery has a good collection of Irish and European paintings while the National Museum has superb displays of Irish Bronze Age gold and early Christian treasures. Nearby, the fascinating Natural History Museum has preserved its wonderful Victorian interior.

#### SIGHTS AT A GLANCE





The area around College Green, dominated by the façades of the Bank of Ireland and Trinity College, is very much the heart of Dublin. The alleys and malls cutting across busy pedestrianized Grafton Street boast many of Dublin's better shops, hotels and restaurants. Just off Kildare Street are the Irish Parliament, the National Library and the National Museum. To escape the city bustle many head for sanctuary in St Stephen's Green, which is overlooked by fine Georgian buildings.



#### **Grafton Street**

Brown Thomas department store is one of the main attractions on this pedestrianized street, alive with buskers and pavement artists 3



### St Ann's Church

The striking façade of the 18th-century church was added in 1868. The interior features lovely stained-glass windows 6

#### **Mansion House**

This has been the official residence of Dublin's Lord Mayor since 1715 6 \_

Fusiliers' Arch (1907)



#### **★** St Stephen's Green

The relaxing city park is surrounded by many grand buildings. In summer, lunch-time concerts attract tourists and workers alike **4** 

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp294–8 and pp324–8

Bank of Ireland

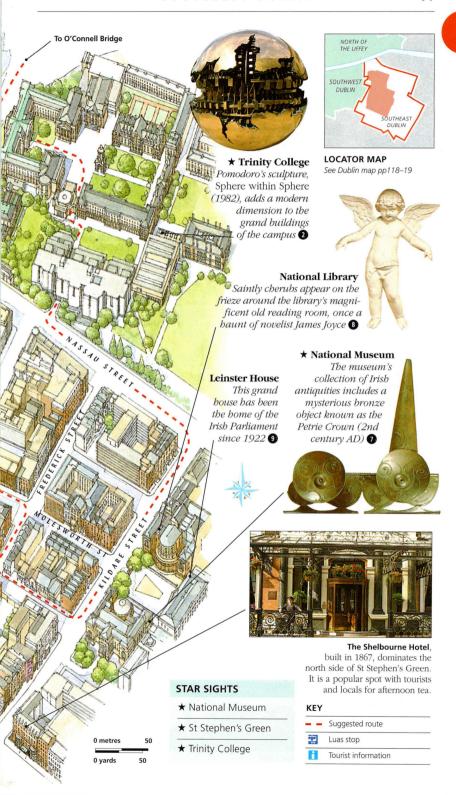
This grand Georgian building was originally built as the Irish Parliament 1

To Dublin

TEPHEN S

Castle

Statue of Molly Malone (1988)





Original chamber of the Irish House of Lords at the Bank of Ireland

#### Bank of Ireland **•**

2 College Green. Map D3. Tel 671 2261. ☐ 9:30am—4pm Tue—5at. ☐ Mon & public hols. House of Lords ☐ 10:30am, 11:30am & 1:45pm Tue or by appt. www.boi.com/arts

The prestigious offices of the Bank of Ireland began life as the first purpose-built parliament house in Europe. The original central section was started by Irish architect Edward Lovett Pearce and completed in 1739 after his death. Sadly, Pearce's masterpiece, the great octagonal chamber of the House of Commons (see p40), was removed at the behest of the British government in 1802. The House of Lords, however, remains gloriously intact, especially its coffered ceiling and oak panelling. There are also huge tapestries of the Battle of the Boyne and the Siege of Londonderry, and a splendid 1,233-piece crystal chandelier dating from 1788.

The east portico was added by architect James Gandon in 1785. Further additions to the building were made around 1797. After the dissolution of the Irish Parliament in 1800, the Bank of Ireland bought the building. The present structure was then completed in 1808 with the transformation of the former lobby of the House of Commons into a magnificent cash office and the addition of a curving screen wall and the Foster Place annexe.

At the front of the bank on College Green – common grazing land in the 17th century – is a statue (1879) by John Foley of Henry Grattan (see p40), the most formidable leader of the old parliament.

## Trinity College 2

See pp62-3.

### Grafton Street

Map D4.

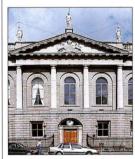
The spine of Dublin's most popular and stylish shopping district (see pp104–107) runs south from Trinity College to the glass St Stephen's Green Shopping Centre. At the junction with Nassau Street is a statue by Jean Rynhart of Molly Malone (1988), the celebrated street trader from the traditional song "Molly Malone". This busy pedestrianized strip, characterized by energetic buskers and talented

Bronze statue of Molly Malone on Grafton Street

street theatre artists, boasts Brown Thomas, one of Dublin's finest department stores (see p104). In addition, there are plenty of recognisable high street retailers to tempt shoppers, including Monsoon. HMV and Oasis. There are also many excellent jewellers in Grafton Street, Number 78 stands on the site of Samuel Whyte's school, whose illustrious roll included Robert Emmet (see p77), leader of the 1803 Rebellion, and the Duke of Wellington.

Hidden along many of the side streets are quaint, traditional Irish pubs, catering to the weary shopper's need for a refreshment break.

# St Stephen's Green 4



Royal College of Surgeons, which overlooks St Stephen's Green

Originally one of three ancient commons in the old city, St Stephen's Green was enclosed in 1664. The 9-ha (22-acre) green was laid out in its present form in 1880, using a grant given by Lord Ardilaun, a member of the Guinness family. Landscaped with flowerbeds, trees, a fountain and a lake, the green is dotted with memorials to eminent Dubliners, including Ardilaun himself. There is a bust of James Joyce (see p90), and a memorial by Henry Moore (1967) dedicated to WB Yeats (see pp232–3). At



Dubliners relaxing by the lake in St Stephen's Green

the Merrion Row corner stands a massive monument (1967) by Edward Delaney to 18th-century nationalist leader Wolfe Tone – it is known locally as "Tonehenge". The 1887 bandstand is still the focal point for free daytime concerts in summer.

The imposing Royal College of Surgeons stands on the west side. Built in 1806, it was commandeered by rebel troops under Countess Constance Markievicz in the 1916 Rising (see pp44–5) and its columns still bear the marks of bullets from the fighting.

The busiest side of the Green is the north, known during the 19th century as the Beaux' Walk and still home to several gentlemen's clubs. The most prominent building is the venerable Shelbourne Hotel. Dating back to 1867, its entrance is adorned by statues of Nubian princesses and attendant slaves. It is well worth popping in for a look at the chandeliered foyer and for afternoon tea in the Lord Mayor's Lounge.

Situated on the south side is Newman House, home of the Catholic University of Ireland (now part of University College). Opened in 1854, its first rector was English theologian John Henry Newman. Famous past pupils include Patrick Pearse, a leader of the 1916 Rising, former Taoiseach Eamon de Valera (see p45) and author James Joyce. Tours reveal some of the best

Georgian interior decor to survive in the city. The walls and ceilings of the Apollo Room and Saloon at No. 85 are festooned with intricate Baroque stuccowork (1739) by the Swiss brothers Paolo and Filippo Francini. The Bishops' Room at No. 86 is decorated with heavy 19th-century furniture.

The small University Church (1856) next door has a colourful, richly marbled Byzantine interior. Also on the south side of St Stephen's Green is Iveagh House, a town house once owned by the Guinness family and now the Department of Foreign Affairs.

### Mansion House 6

Dawson St. Map E4. to the public.

Set back from Dawson Street by a neat cobbled forecourt, the Mansion House is an attractive Queen Anne-style building. It was built in 1710 for the aristocrat Joshua Dawson, after whom the street is named. The Dublin Corporation bought it from him five years later as the official residence of the city's Lord Mayor. The Round Room adjacent to the main building was built in 1821 for the visit of King George IV. The Dáil Éireann (see p65), which adopted the Declaration of Independence, first met here on 21 January 1919.

#### St Ann's Church 6

Dawson St. **Map** E4. **Tel** 676 7727. 10am-4pm Mon-Fri (also for Sun services at 8am, 10:45am & 6:30pm).

Founded in 1707, St Ann's striking Romanesque façade was added in 1868. Inside are colourful stained-glass windows, dating from the mid-19th century. The church has a long tradition of charity work: in 1723 Lord Newton left a bequest to buy bread for the poor. The original shelf for the bread still stands next to the altar.

Famous past parishioners include Wolfe Tone (see p41), who was married here in 1785, Douglas Hyde (see p45) and Bram Stoker (1847–1912), author of *Dracula*.



Detail of window depicting Faith, Hope and Charity, St Ann's Church

## Trinity College o



Trinity College coat of arms

Trinity College was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I on the site of an Augustinian monastery. Originally a Protestant college, it only began to take Catholics in numbers after 1970, when the Catholic Church relaxed its opposition to their attending. Among Trinity's many famous students were playwrights Oliver Goldsmith

Dining Hall (1761)

and Samuel Beckett, and political writer Edmund Burke. The college's lawns and cobbled quads provide a pleasant haven in the heart of the city. The major attractions are the Old Library and the *Book of Kells*, housed in the Treasury.



Reclining Connected Forms (1969) by Henry Moore



This was the first university chapel in the Republic to accept all denominations. The

Republic to accept all denominations. The painted window above the altar is from 1867.

Statue of Edmund . Burke (1868) by John Foley





Nobel prizewinner Samuel Beckett was born at Foxrock, south of Dublin. In 1923 he entered Trinity, and later graduated with a first in modern languages and a gold medal. He was also a keen member of the college cricket team.

Forsaking Ireland, Beckett moved to France in the early 1930s. Many of his major works such as Waiting for Godot (1951) were written first in French, and later translated, by Beckett, into English.





Statue of Oliver



Provost's House (c. 1760)

arliament Square

Examination Hall Completed in 1791 to a design by Sir William Chambers, the hall features a gilded oak chandelier and ornate ceilings by Michael Stapleton.



#### Library Square

The red-brick building (known as the Rubrics) on the east side of Library Square was built around 1700 and is the oldest surviving part of the college.

#### VISITORS' CHECKLIST

College Green. Map D3. Tel 608
1724. DART to Pearse Street.
10, 14, 15, 46 & many other
routes. Old Library and Treasury
9:30am–5pm Mon–Sat,
9:30am (noon in winter)–4:30pm
Sun & some public hols (last adm:
30 min before closing). 10 days
at Christmas. 2 4 5 by arrangement. Chapel by appt
Douglas Hyde Gallery for
exhibitions. www.tcd.ie/library

The Museum Building, completed in Shop and entrance to 1857, is noted for its Venetian exterior, **Old Library** and its magnificent multicoloured hall and double-domed roof. Sphere within Sphere (1982) was given to the **New Square** college by its sculptor Arnaldo Pomodoro. **Berkeley Library Building by Paul** Koralek (1967) **★** Treasury This detail is from the Book of Durrow, one of the other **Entrance from** magnificent illuminated Nassau Street manuscripts boused in the Treasury along with The Douglas Hyde Gallery the celebrated Book of was built in the 1970s to house temporary art exhibitions. Kells (see p64).

> ★ Old Library (1732) The spectacular Long Room

measures 64 m (210 ft)

texts, marble busts of scholars and the oldest

from end to end. It houses 200,000 antiquarian

surviving barp in Ireland.

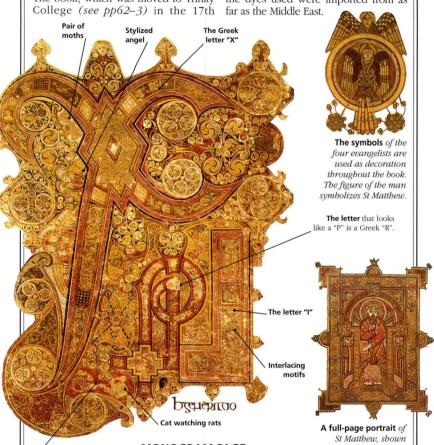
#### STAR FEATURES

- **★** Campanile
  - ★ Old Library
- **★** Treasury

## The Book of Kells

The most richly decorated of Ireland's medieval illuminated manuscripts, the *Book of Kells* may have been the work of monks from Iona, who fled to Kells (see p241) in AD 806 after a Viking raid. The book, which was moved to Trinity College (see pp62–3) in the 17th

century, contains the four gospels in Latin. The scribes who copied the texts also embellished their calligraphy with intricate interlacing spirals as well as human figures and animals. Some of the dyes used were imported from as far as the Middle East.



Rats eating bread could be a reference to sinners taking Holy Communion. The symbolism of the animals and people decorating the manuscript is often hard to interpret.

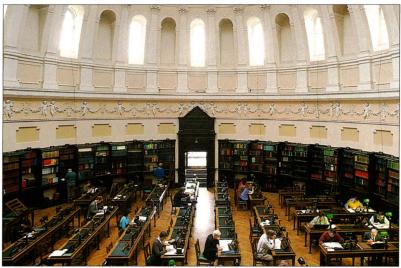
#### **MONOGRAM PAGE**

This, the most elaborate page of the book, contains the first three words of St Matthew's account of the birth of Christ. The first word "XRI" is an abbreviation of "Christi".

St Matthew, shown standing barefoot in front of a throne, precedes the opening words of his gospel.







The magnificent domed Reading Room on the first floor of the National Library

#### National Museum •

See pp66-7.

## National Library ®

Kildare St. Map E4. Tel 603 0200.

10am-9pm Mon-Wed, 10am-5pm Thu & Fri, 10am-1pm Sat.

public hols. www.nbi.ie

Designed by Sir Thomas Deane, the National Library was opened in 1890. It was built to house the collection of the Royal Dublin Society, which was formed in 1731 to promote the arts and sciences and improve conditions for the poor. The Library contains first editions of every major Irish writer and a copy of almost every book ever published in Ireland. The list of distinguished Irish writers is well known and all are represented here. There is a huge collection of old maps, papers, and manuscripts by such names as playwright George Bernard Shaw and politician and liberator Daniel O'Connell (see p42).

The first-floor Reading Room (where Joyce sited the literary debate in *Ulysses*) has well-worn desks and green-shaded lamps. Simply ask an attendant for a visitor's pass. There is also a small genealogy exhibit; a more extensive display,

along with details on how to trace family trees, can be found at the Heraldic Museum in the Genealogical Office a few doors down at Nos. 2 and 3 Kildare Street.

### Leinster House

Kildare St. **Map** E4. **Tel** 618 3000. groups by appt; foreign visitors to book through their own embassy. **T** phone for details. **www**.oireachtas.ie

This stately mansion houses the Dáil and the Seanad – the two chambers of the Irish Parliament. It was originally built for the Duke of Leinster in 1745. Designed by Germanborn architect Richard Castle, the Kildare Street façade resembles that of a large town house. However, the rear, looking on to Merrion Square, has the air of a country estate complete with sweeping lawns. The Royal Dublin Society bought the building in 1815. The government obtained a part of it in 1922 for parliamentary use and bought the entire building two years later.

Phone ahead to arrange a tour of the rooms, including the Seanad chamber with its heavily ornamented ceiling.

#### THE IRISH PARLIAMENT

The Irish Free State, forerunner of the Republic of Ireland, was inaugurated in 1922 (see p44), although an unofficial Irish parliament, the Dáil, had already been in existence since

1919. Today, parliament is made up of two houses: the Dáil (House of Representatives) and Seanad Éireann (the Senate). The Prime Minister is the Taoiseach and the deputy, the Tánaiste. The Dáil's 166 representatives - Teachta Dála, known as TDs - are elected by proportional representation. The 60-strong Seanad is appointed by various individuals and authorities, including the Taoiseach and the University of Dublin.



Opening of the first parliament of the Irish Free State in 1922

## National Museum o

The National Museum of Ireland (Archaeology and History) was built in the 1880s to the design of Sir Thomas Deane. Its domed rotunda features marble pillars and a mosaic floor. The Treasury houses priceless items such as the Broighter gold boat (see p33), while Ór – Ireland's Gold, an exhibition of Ireland's Bronze Age gold, has jewellery such as the Gleninsheen Gorget (see p932–3). Many collections have moved to the annexe of the museum at Collins Barracks (see p92).

### **Egyptian Mummy**

This mummy of the lady Tentdinebu is thought to date back to c.945–716
BC. Covered in brilliant colours, it is part of the stunning Egyptian collection.



#### ★ Ór – Ireland's Gold

This is one of the most extensive collections of Bronze Age gold in Western Europe. This gold lunula (c.1800 BC) is one of many pieces of fine jewellery in the exhibition.

#### KEY TO FLOORPLAN

- The Road to Independence
- or Ireland's Gold
- The Treasury
- Prehistoric Ireland
- Medieval Ireland
- Viking Ireland
- Ancient Egypt
- Temporary exhibition space
- Non-exhibition space

#### Flag from 1916 Rising

The Road to Independence exhibition covers historical events between 1900 and 1921. This flag flew over Dublin's GPO during the Easter Rising (see p89).

#### **GALLERY GUIDE**

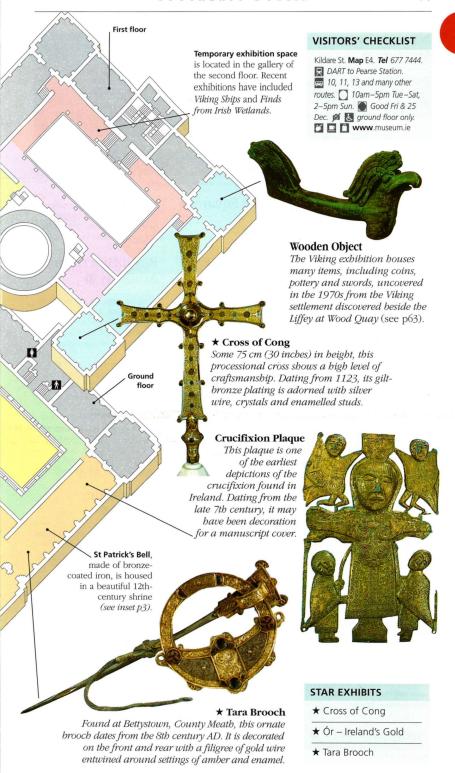
The ground floor holds The Treasury, Ór – Ireland's Gold exhibition, The Road to Independence and the Prehistoric Ireland display. On the first floor is the Medieval Ireland exhibition, which illustrates many aspects of life in later medieval Ireland. Also on the first floor are artifacts from Ancient Egypt and from the Viking settlement of Dublin.

Main entrance

The domed rotunda, based on the design of the Altes Museum in Berlin, makes an impressive

entrance hall.

The Treasury / houses masterpieces of Irish crafts such as the Ardagh Chalice (see p55).



## Natural History Museum **©**

Merrion St. **Map** E4. *Tel* 677 7444.

10am-5pm Tue-Sat, 2-5pm Sun.
Mon, Good Fri & Dec 25.
ground floor only. www.museum.ie

Known affectionately as the "Dead Zoo", this museum is crammed with antique glass cabinets containing stuffed animals from around the world. The museum was opened to the public in 1857 with an inaugural lecture by Dr David Livingstone. The building has barely altered since Victorian times, and is now practically a museum piece itself.

The Irish room on the ground floor holds exhibits on Irish wildlife. Inside the front door are three huge skeletons of the extinct giant deer, better known as the "Irish elk". Also on this floor are shelves stacked with jars of bizarre creatures such as octopuses, leeches and worms preserved in embalming fluid.

The upper gallery houses the noted Blaschka Collection of glass models of marine life, and a display of buffalo and deer trophies. Suspended from the ceiling are the skeletons of a fin whale, found at Bantry Bay (see p167) in 1862, and a humpback whale, which was found stranded at Inishcrone in County Sligo in 1893.



Lawn and front entrance of the Natural History Museum

## National Gallery 0

See pp70-71.



Georgian town houses overlooking Merrion Square gardens

### Merrion Square 🛭

Map F4.

Merrion Square is one of Dublin's largest and grandest Georgian squares. Covering about 5 ha (12 acres), the square was laid out by John Ensor around 1762.

On the west side are the impressive facades of the Natural History Museum, the National Gallery and the front garden of Leinster House (see p65). However, this august triumvirate does not compare with the lovely Georgian town houses on the other three sides of the square. Many have brightly painted doors with original features such as wrought-iron balconies, ornate doorknockers and fanlights. The oldest and finest houses are on the north side.

Many of the houses – now predominantly used as office space – have plaques detailing the rich and famous who once lived in them. These include Catholic emancipation leader Daniel O'Connell (see p42), who lived at No. 58 and poet WB Yeats (see p922–3), who lived at No. 82. The playwight Oscar Wilde (see p22) spent his childhood at No. 1.

The attractive central park features colourful flower and shrub beds. In the 1840s it served a grim function as an emergency soup kitchen, feeding the hungry during the Great Famine (see p219). On the northwest side of the park stands the restored Rutland Fountain. It was originally erected in 1791 for the sole use of Dublin's poor.

Just off the square, at No. 24 Merrion Street Upper, is the birthplace of the Duke of Wellington, who, when teased about his Irish background, said, "Being born in a stable does not make one a horse."

## Royal Hibernian Academy **3**

15 Ely Place. Map E5. Tel 661 2558.

11am-5pm Tue, Wed, Fri & Sat,
11am-9pm Thu, 2-5pm Sun.

Mon, public & Christmas hols.

www.royalhibernianacademy.com

The academy is one of the largest exhibition spaces in the city. It puts on touring exhibitions and mounts shows of painting, sculpture and other work by Ireland's best young art and design students. This modern building does, however, look out of place at the end of Ely Place, an attractive Georgian cul-de-sac.

## Fitzwilliam Square **@**

Map E5. No. 29 Fitzwilliam St Lower Tel 702 6165. 10am–5pm Tue—Sat, 2–5pm Sun. Mon & 3 weeks at Christmas.

Dating from 1825, this was one of the last Georgian squares to be laid out in central Dublin. Much smaller than Merrion Square, it is a popular location for medical practices.

In the 1960s, more than 20 town houses on Fitzwilliam Street Lower were torn down to make way for the headquarters of the Electricity Supply Board. The company has since tried to appease public indignation by renovating No. 29 as a Georgian showpiece home.

# **Dublin's Georgian Terraces**

The 18th century was Dublin's Age of Elegance, a time of relative prosperity when the Irish gentry, keen not to appear as the poor relations of Britain, set about remodelling Dublin into one of the most elegant cities in Europe. Terraced town houses were built, forming handsome new streets and squares. During the

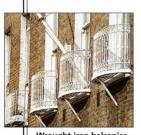
19th century the city's wealth declined,



Doorknocker, **Merrion Square** 

forcing some middle-class families to divide their homes into tenements. Many of Dublin's once grand streets slowly deteriorated. A century later the property boom of the 1960s threatened to rip out what was left of Georgian Dublin. Fortunately, much has survived and some of the city's

finest architecture can be seen in Merrion Square and Fitzwilliam Square.

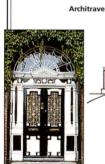


Wrought-iron balconies gave added prestige to the Georgian house. Those still in place today are mostly later

#### The drawing

Victorian additions

room was always on the first floor. The high ceiling was decorated with the finest plasterwork.



The doorway was usually crowned with a segmented fanlight. The principal decoration on the door itself was a beavy brass knocker.



The bedrooms were usually on the second floor, while the upper floors contained the servants' quarters and children's rooms.



Lavish stuccowork was an important way of showing an owner's wealth during the 18th century.

#### The dining room was normally on

the ground floor.

The kitchen contained a huge cooking range which was fired by either coal or wood. The adjoining pantry was used to store the household's groceries.

#### **GEORGIAN TERRACED HOUSE**

While Georgian streetscapes may appear uniform, closer inspection reveals a diversity of styles in terms of details such as fanlights, architraves and balconies. The hallways usually had stone floors and, facing the hall door, a staircase rising to the upper floors. Many of the town houses did not have gardens - the railed-off parks in the centre of the squares were reserved for residents only and served as such.

# National Gallery o



This purpose-built gallery was opened to the public in 1864. It houses many excellent exhibits, largely due to generous

bequests, such as the Milltown collection of works of art from Russborough House (see p132). Playwright George Bernard Shaw was also a benefactor, leaving a third of his estate to the gallery. A new wing has been added to

The Houseless Wanderer by John Foley

the gallery, which now has more than 700 works on display. Although the emphasis is on Irish landscape art and portraits,

the major schools of European painting are well represented with works by Goya, El Greco, Vermeer, Titian and Monet.

#### **GALLERY GUIDE**

The main entrance is through the lofty Millennium Wing on Clare Street, Irish and British collections are boused on level 1, with the National Portrait Gallery on the mezzanine level. The European schools are located on level 2, with changing special exhibitions installed in the adjacent Millennium Wing.





#### \* For the Road

The Yeats Museum houses works by Jack B Yeats (1871-1957) and his family. This mysterious painting reflects the artist's obsession with the Sligo countryside.

#### STAR PAINTINGS

- ★ The Taking of Christ by Caravaggio
- ★ Pierrot by Juan Gris
- \* For the Road by Jack Yeats

#### The Shaw Room

is an elegant hall, lined with full-length portraits, dating from the 17th century onwards, and lit by magnificent Waterford Crystal chandeliers.

#### \* Pierrot

This Cubist-style work, by Spanishborn artist Juan Gris, is one of many variations be painted on the theme of Pierrot and Harlequin. This particular one dates from 1921.





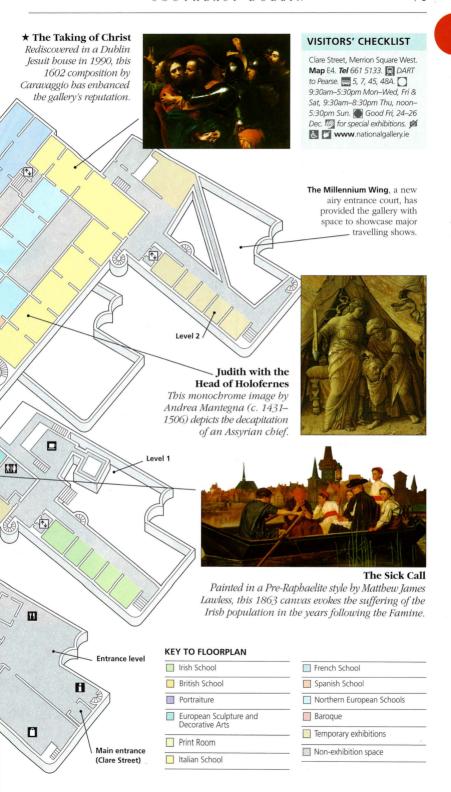








**Merrion Square** entrance





# SOUTHWEST DUBLIN

Memorial to Turlough

the area around Dublin Castle was first settled in prehistoric times, and it was from here that the city grew. Dublin gets its name

from the dark pool (Dubh Linn) which formed at the confluence of the Liffey and the Poddle, a river which once ran through the site of Dublin Castle. It is now channelled underground and trickles out into the Liffey by Grattan Bridge. Archaeological excavations behind Wood Quay, on the banks of the Liffey, reveal

that the Vikings established a trading settlement here around 841. Following Strongbow's invasion of

following Strongbow's invasion of 1170, a medieval city began to emerge; the Anglo-Normans built strong defensive walls around the castle.

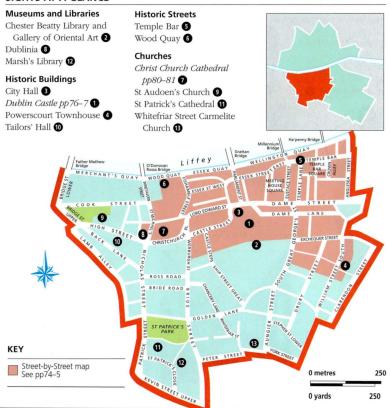
A small reconstructed section of these old city walls can be seen at St Audoen's Church. More conspicuous reminders of the Anglo-Normans are provided by the grand medieval Christ

Church Cathedral and Ireland's largest church, St Patrick's Cathedral. When the city expanded to the north and east during the Georgian era, the narrow cobbled streets of Temple Bar became a quarter of skilled craftsmen and merchants. Today this area is considered to be the trendicest part of town, and is home

o'Carolan in
St Patrick's Cathedral

considered to be the trendiest part of town, and is home
d 841. to a variety of "alternative" shops and
ion of cafés. The Powerscourt Townhouse,
nerge; an elegant 18th-century mansion, has
terong been converted into one of the city's
tastle.

#### SIGHTS AT A GLANCE



# Street-by-Street: Southwest Dublin

Despite its wealth of ancient buildings, such as Dublin Castle and Christ Church Cathedral, this part of Dublin lacks the sleek appeal of the neighbouring streets around Grafton Street. In recent years, however, redevelopment has helped to rejuvenate the area, especially around Temple Bar, where the attractive cobbled streets are lined with interesting shops, galleries and cafés.

Sunlight Chambers
were built in 1900 for
the Lever Brothers
company. The
delightful terracotta
decoration on the
façade advertises
their main business
of soap manufacturing.



Wood Quay
This is where the Vikings
established their first
permanent settlement in
Ireland around 841

★ Christ Church Cathedral
Huge family monuments
including that of the
19th Earl of Kildare
can be found in
Ireland's oldest cathedral, which also bas a
fascinating crypt



An ornate interior hides behind the somewhat drab exterior of this 18th-century church.





Originally built as the
Royal Exchange in
1779, the city's municipal headquarters is
fronted by a huge
Corinthian portico

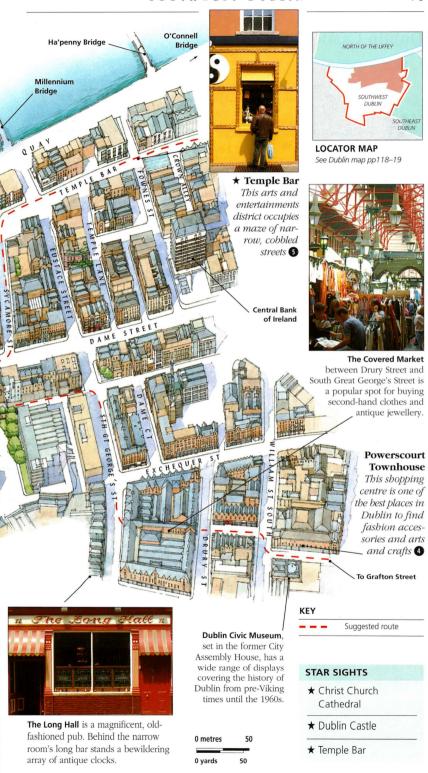
#### **★ Dublin Castle**

The Drawing Room, with its Waterford crystal chandelier, is part of a suite of luxurious rooms built in the 18th century for the Viceroys of Ireland 1



ELLINGTON

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp294-8 and pp324-8



## Dublin Castle o

For seven centuries Dublin Castle was a symbol of English rule, ever since the Anglo-Normans built a fortress here in the 13th century. All that remains of the original structure is the Record Tower and the butt of the Powder Tower. Following a fire in 1684, the Surveyor-General, Sir William Robinson, laid down the plans for the Upper and Lower Castle Yards in their present form. On the first floor of the south side of the

St Patrick by Edward Smyth Upper Yard are the luxury State Apartments, including St Patrick's Hall. These rooms, with Killybegs carpets and chandeliers of Waterford glass, served as home to the British-appointed Viceroys of Ireland.



Figure of Justice
Facing the Upper Yard
above the main entrance
from Cork Hill, this statue
aroused much cynicism
among Dubliners, who
felt she was turning her
back on the city.

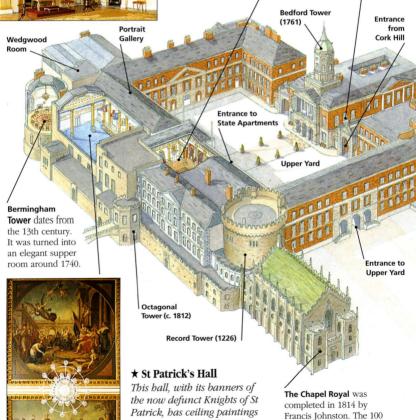
heads on the exterior of this

Neo-Gothic church were

carved by Edward Smyth.

#### **★** Throne Room

Built in 1740, this room contains a throne said to have been presented by William of Orange after his victory at the Battle of the Boyne (see p244).,



by Vincenzo Valdré (1778),

symbolizing the relationship

between Britain and Ireland.

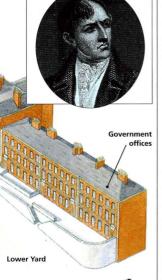
For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp294-8 and pp324-8

#### VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Off Dame St. Map C3. Tel 677
7129. 49, 56A, 77, 77A, 123.
State Apartments 1
10am–5pm Mon–Fri, 2–5pm Sat,
Sun & public hols. Good Fri,
25–26 Dec, 1 Jan and for State
functions. 2 1 biligatory.

#### **ROBERT EMMET**

Robert Emmet (1778–1803), leader of the abortive 1803 rebellion, is remembered as a heroic champion of Irish liberty. His plan was to capture Dubl in Castle as a signal for the country to rise up against the Act of Union (see p42). Emmet was caught and publicly hanged, but the defiant, patriotic speech he made from the dock helped to inspire future generations of Irish freedom fighters.



#### STAR FEATURES

Dame Street

- ★ St Patrick's Hall
- ★ Throne Room



Manuscript (1874) from the Holy Koran written by calligrapher Ahmad Shaikh in Kashmir, Chester Beatty Library

# Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art 2

Clock Tower Building, Dublin Castle.

Tel 407 0750. 10am-5pm MonFri (Tue-Fri Oct-Apr), 11am-5pm Sat,
1pm-5pm Sun. Good Fri, 24–26
Dec & public holidays. 15 May Www.cbl.ie

This world-renowned collection was named European Museum of the Year in 2002. It was bequeathed to Ireland by the American mining magnate and art collector Sir Alfred Chester Beatty, who died in 1968. This generous act no doubt led to his selection as Ireland's first honorary citizen in 1957.

During his lifetime, Beatty accumulated almost 300 copies of the Koran, representing the works of master calligraphers. Also on display are 6,000-year-old Babylonian stone tablets, Greek papyri and biblical material written in Coptic, the ancient language of Egypt.

Treasures from the Far East include a collection of Chinese jade books – each leaf is made from thinly cut jade, engraved with Chinese characters which are then filled with gold.

Burmese and Siamese art is represented by the collection of 18th- and 19th-century *Parabaiks*, books of folk tales with colourful illustrations on mulberry leaf paper. The Japanese collection includes paintings, woodblock prints and books and scrolls from

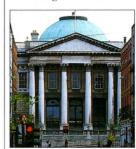
the 16th to 18th centuries. One of the most beautiful manuscripts in the western European collection is the Coëtivy Book of Hours, an illuminated 15th–century French prayer book.

# City Hall 3

Cork Hill, Dame St. **Map** C3. *Tel* 222 2204. 10am–5:15pm Mon–Sat, 2pm–5pm Sun and public holidays. Good Fri, 24–26 Dec. 2 5 11 5

Designed by Thomas Cooley, this imposing Corinthianstyle building was erected between 1769 and 1779 as the Royal Exchange. It was taken over by Dublin Corporation in 1852 as a meeting place for the city council – a role it keeps to this day.

The building has recently been restored to its original condition and a permanent exhibition on the city's history, Dublin City Hall - The Story of the Capital, is housed on the lower ground floor.



City Hall from Parliament Street



Interior of Powerscourt Townhouse Shopping Centre

# Powerscourt Townhouse 4

South William St. **Map** D4.**TeI** 679 4144. ☐ 10am-6pm Mon-Fri (8pm Thu), 9am-6pm Sat, noon-6pm Sun. See also **Shopping in Ireland** pp352–5. www.powerscourtcentre.com

Completed in 1774 by Robert Mack, this grand mansion was built as the city home of Viscount Powerscourt, who also had a country estate at Enniskerry (see pp134-5). Granite from the Powerscourt estate was used in its construction. Today the building houses one of Dublin's best shopping centres. Inside it still features the original grand mahogany staircase, and detailed plasterwork by Michael Stapleton.

The building became a drapery warehouse in the 1830s, and major restoration during the 1960s turned it into a centre of specialist galleries, antique shops, jewellery stalls, cafés and other shop units. The enclosed central courtyard, topped by a glass dome, is a popular meeting place with Dubliners. The centre can also be reached from Grafton Street down the Johnson Court alley.

# Temple Bar 6

Map C3. Temple Bar Information Tel 671 5717 (24hr info line). See also Entertainment in Dublin p114. Project 39 East Essex Street. Tel 679 6622. Irish Film Institute 6 Eustace Street. Tel 679 5744. ☑ Diversions, (May–Sep). www.temple-bar.ie

Some of Dublin's best night spots, restaurants and unusual shops line these narrow, cobbled streets running between the Bank of Ireland (see p60) and Christ Church Cathedral. In the 18th century the area was home to many insalubrious characters -Fownes Street was noted for its brothels. It was also the birthplace of parliamentarian Henry Grattan (see p40). Skilled craftsmen and artisans, such as clockmakers and printers, lived and worked around Temple Bar until postwar industrialization led to a decline in the area's fortunes.

In the 1970s, the CIE (the national transport authority) bought up parcels of land in this area to build a major bus depot. Before building, the CIE rented out, on cheap leases, some of the old retail and warehouse premises to

young artists and to record, clothing and book shops. The area developed an "alternative" identity and when the development plans were scrapped the artists and retailers stayed on. Described by some cynics as the city's "officially designated arts zone", Temple Bar today is an exciting place with bars, restaurants, shops and several galleries. Stylish residential and commercial development is contributing further to the area's appeal.

Highlights include the Project, a highly respected venue for avant garde performance art; and the Irish Film Institute, which shows art house and independent films, and has a popular restaurant/bar and shop.

Nearby Meeting House Square is one of the venues for Diversions, a summer programme of free outdoor concerts, theatre and film screenings. The National Photographic Archive and



A pub in Temple Bar

Gallery of Photography are also on the square and there is an excellent organic food market here on Saturdays, where you can sample oysters, salmon, cheese and other local produce.

# Wood Quay 6

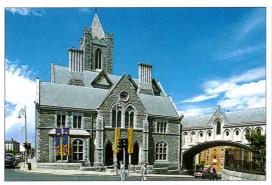
**Map** B3.

Named after the timber supports used to reclaim the land, Wood Quay has undergone excavations revealing the remains of one of the earliest Viking villages in Ireland (see p.79). It is hoped that part of the excavated area will eventually be open to public view.

Viking artifacts can be seen at the Dublinia exhibition (see p79) and at the National Museum (see pp66-7).



Strolling through the streets of Temple Bar



Former Synod Hall, now home to the Dublinia exhibition

## Christ Church Cathedral •

See pp80-81.

#### Dublinia 8

St Michael's Hill. Map B3. Tel 679
4611. ☐ Apr-Sep: 10am-Spm daily;
Oct-Mar: 11am-Apm Tue-Sat, 10am4:30pm Sun, Mon & public hols. ☐
23-26 Dec, 17 Mar. ☐ charge to
enter Christ Church Cathedral via
bridge. www.dublinia.ie

Managed by the non-profitmaking Medieval Trust, the Dublinia exhibition covers the formative period of Dublin's history from the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in 1170 to the closure of the monasteries in the 1540s (see p38). The exhibition is housed in the Neo-Gothic Synod Hall, which, up until 1983, was home to the ruling body of the Church of Ireland. The building and the hump-backed bridge linking it to Christ Church Cathedral date from the 1870s. Before Dublinia was established in 1993, the Synod Hall was used as a nightclub.

The exhibition is entered via the basement where visitors walk through life-size reconstructions of the Medieval City. These depict major events in Dublin's history, such as the Black Death and the rebellion of Silken Thomas (see p38). The ground floor houses a large scale model of Dublin in around 1500, a display of

artifacts from the Wood Quay excavation, and reconstructions including the inside of a late medieval merchant's kitchen. There are also information panels on the themes of trade, merchants and religion. A multi-screen presentation on Dublin's medieval history can be seen in the dark-wood panelled Great Hall on the first floor.

The 60-m (200-ft) high St Michael's Tower offers one of the best vantage points for views across the city.

## 

High St, Cornmarket. Map B3.

Tel 677 0088. Jun-Sep. 🚳 🌠



Tower of St Audoen's Church

Designated a national monument and open for visitors in the summer months. St Audoen's is Dublin's earliest surviving medieval church. The 15thcentury nave remains intact and the three bells date from 1423. The church stands in an attractive churchyard with well-maintained lawns and shrubs. To the rear, steps lead down to St Audoen's Arch, the only remaining gateway of the old city. Flanking the gate are restored sections of the 13thcentury city walls.

Next door stands St Audoen's Roman Catholic Church, which was built in the 1840s. The two Pacific clam shells by the front door hold holy water. In the basement is an audiovisual presentation on pre-Viking Ireland.

#### THE VIKINGS IN DUBLIN

Viking raiders arrived in Ireland in the late 8th century and founded Dublin in 841. They built a fort where the River Poddle met the Liffey at a black pool (Dubh Linn), on the site of Dublin Castle. They also established a settlement along the banks of the Liffey at Wood Quay (see p78). Much of their trade was based on silver, slaves and piracy.

Following their defeat by Brian Ború at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 (see p34), the Vikings integrated fully with the local Irish, adopting Christian beliefs. After Strongbow's Anglo-Norman invasion in 1170 (see p36), the flourishing Hiberno-Viking trading community declined, and many were banished to a separate colony called Oxmanstown, just north of the river.



Artist's impression of a Viking ship in Dublin Bay

The Lord Mayor's pew is usually kept in the north aisle, but is moved to the front of the nave when used by Dublin's civic dignitaries. It features a carving of the city arms and a stand for the civic mace.

# Christ Church Cathedral •



Arms on Lord Mayor's pew

Christ Church Cathedral was established by the Hiberno-Norse king of Dublin, Sitric "Silkbeard", and the first bishop of Dublin, Dunan. It was rebuilt by the Anglo-Norman archbishop, John Cumin in 1186. It is the cathedral for the Church of Ireland

(Anglican) diocese of Dublin and Glendalough. By the 19th century it was in a bad state of repair, but was completely remodelled by architect George Street in the 1870s. The vast 12th-century crypt was restored in 2000.



Ibis beautiful brass lectern was handwrought during the Middle Ages. It stands on the north side of the nave, in front of the pulpit. The matching lectern on the south side is Victorian.



**Great Nave** 

The 25-m (68-ft) high nave has some fine early Gothic arches.
On the north side, the original 13th-century wall leans out by as much as 50 cm (18 in) due to the weight of the roof.

# **★** Strongbow Monument

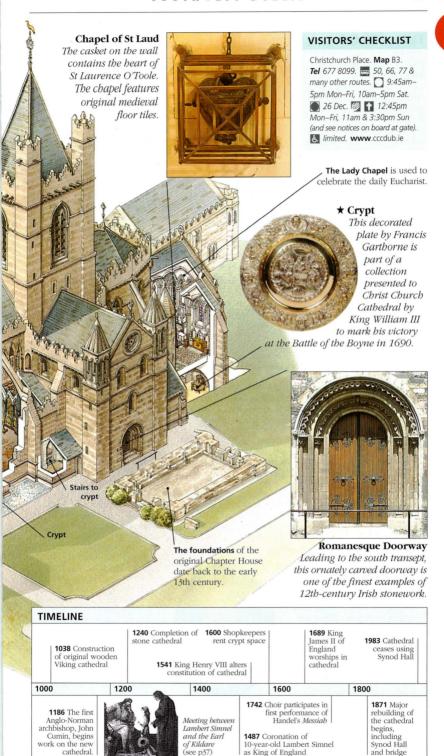
The large effigy in chain armour is probably not Strongbow. However, his remains are buried in the cathedral and the curious half-figure may be part of his original tomb.

The bridge to the Synod Hall was added when the cathedral was being rebuilt in the 1870s.

#### STAR FEATURES

Entrance

- ★ Crypt
- ★ Medieval Lectern
- ★ Strongbow Monument



## Tailors' Hall @

Back Lane. Map B4. To the public. www.antaisce.org

Dublin's only surviving guildhall preserves a delightful corner of old Dublin in an otherwise busy redevelopment zone. Built in 1706, it stands behind a limestone arch in a quiet cobbled yard. The building is the oldest guildhall in Ireland and was used by various trade groups including hosiers, saddlers and barber-surgeons as well as tailors. It also hosted many political meetings - Wolfe Tone addressed a public United Irishmen rally here before the 1798 rebellion (see p41). The building closed in the early 1960s due to neglect, but a successful appeal by Desmond Guinness saw it refurbished. It is now the home of An Taisce (the Irish National Trust).



Façade of Tailors' Hall, home of the Irish National Trust



#### St Patrick's Cathedral @

St Patrick's Close. Map B4. Tel 475 4817. Mar-Oct: 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm Sun; Nov-Feb: 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 9am-3pm Sun. 12am & 3:15pm Sun. Tours are not admitted during services. www.stpatrickscathedral.ie

Ireland's largest church was founded beside a sacred well where St Patrick is said to have baptized converts around AD 450. A stone slab bearing a Celtic cross and covering the well was unearthed over a century ago. It is now preserved in the west end of the cathedral's nave. The original building was just a wooden chapel and remained so until 1192 when Archbishop John Comyn

rebuilt the cathedral in stone. Over the centuries, St Patrick's came to be seen as the people's church, while the older Christ Church Cathedral (see pp80-81) nearby was more associated with the British establishment. In the mid-17th century, Huguenot refugees from France arrived in Dublin, and were given the Lady Chapel by the Dean and Chapter as their place of worship. The chapel was separated from the rest of the cathedral and used by the Huguenots until the late 18th century. Today St Patrick's Cathedral is the Protestant Church of Ireland's national cathedral.

Much of the present building dates back to work completed between 1254 and 1270. The cathedral suffered over the centuries from desecration. fire and neglect but, thanks to the generosity of Sir Benjamin Guinness, it underwent extensive restoration during the 1860s. The building is 91 m (300 ft) long; at the western end is a 43-m (141-ft) tower, restored by Archbishop Minot in 1370 and now known as Minot's Tower. The spire was added in the 18th century.

The interior is dotted with busts, brasses and monuments. A leaflet available at the front desk helps identify them. The largest, most colourful and elaborate tomb was dedicated to the Boyle family in the 17th century. Erected by Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork, in memory of his second wife Katherine, it is decorated with painted figures of his family,

#### **JONATHAN SWIFT (1667-1745)**

Jonathan Swift was born in Dublin and educated at Trinity College (see pp62-3). He left for England in 1689, but returned in 1694 when his political career failed. Back in Ireland he began a life in the church, becoming Dean of St Patrick's in 1713. In addition to his clerical duties. Swift was a prolific political commentator his best-known work, Gulliver's Travels, contains a bitter satire on Anglo-Irish relations. Swift's personal life, particularly his friendship with two

younger women, Ester Johnson, better known as Stella, and Hester Vanhomrigh, attracted criticism. In his final years, Swift suffered from Ménière's disease – an illness of the ear which led many to believe him insane.

including his wife's parents. Other famous citizens remembered in the church include the harpist Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738) (see p24) and Douglas Hyde (1860-1949). the first President of Ireland.

Many visitors come to see the memorials associated with Ionathan Swift, the satirical writer and Dean of St Patrick's. In the north transept is "Swift's Corner", containing various memorabilia such as an altar table and a bookcase holding his death mask and various pamphlets. A self-penned epitaph can be found on the wall on the southwest side of the nave. A few steps away, two brass plates mark his grave and that of his beloved Stella, who died in 1728.

At the west end of the nave is an old door with a hole in it - a relic from a feud which took place between the Lords Kildare and Ormonde in 1492. The latter took refuge in the Chapter House, but a truce was soon made and a hole was cut in the door by Lord Kildare so that the two could shake hands in friendship.

# Marsh's Library @

St Patrick's Close. Map B4. Tel 454 3511. 10am-1pm & 2-5pm Mon & Wed-Fri. 10:30am-1pm Sat. Tue & Sun, 10 days at Christmas & public hols. www.marshlibrarv.ie

The oldest public library in Ireland was built in 1701 for Archbishop Narcissus Marsh, a Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral. It was designed by Sir William Robinson, architect of much of Dublin Castle (see pp 76-7) and the Royal Hospital Kilmainham (see p97).

Inside, the bookcases are topped by a mitre and feature carved gables with lettering in gold leaf. To the rear of the library are wired alcoves (or "cages") where readers were locked in with rare books. The collection, from the 16th, 17th and early 18th centuries, includes irreplaceable volumes, such as Bishop Bedell's 1685 translation of the Old Testament into Irish and Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, with anti-Scottish margin notes by Ionathan Swift.



56 Aungier St. Map C4. Tel 475 8821. 8am-6:30pm Mon & Wed-Fri, 8am-9pm Tue, 8am-7pm Sat, 8am-7:30pm Sun. 9:30am-1pm public hols.

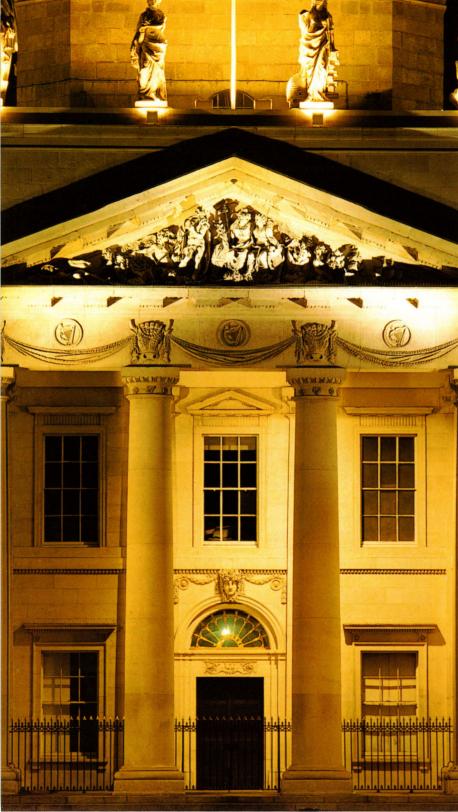
Designed by George Papworth, this Catholic church was built in 1827. It stands alongside the site of a Medieval Carmelite foundation of which nothing remains.

In contrast to the two Church of Ireland cathedrals. St Patrick's and Christ Church, which are usually full of tourists, this church is frequented by city worshippers. Every day they come to light candles to various saints, including St Valentine – the patron saint of lovers. His remains, previously buried in the cemetery of St Hippolytus in Rome, were offered to the church as a gift from Pope Gregory XVI in 1836. Today they rest beneath the commemorative statue of St Valentine, which stands in the northeast corner of the church beside the high altar.

Nearby is a Flemish oak statue of the Virgin and Child, dating from the late 15th or early 16th century. It may have belonged to St Mary's Abbey (see p93) and is believed to be the only wooden statue of its kind to escape destruction when Ireland's monasteries were sacked at the time of the Reformation (see p38).



Carved monument (1632) to the Boyle family in St Patrick's Cathedral



# NORTH OF THE LIFFEY

ublin's northside was the last part of the city to be developed during the 18th century. The city authorities envisioned an area of wide, leafy avenues, but the reality of today's heavy traffic has rather spoiled their original plans. Nonetheless, O'Connell Street, lined with fine statues and monuments, is an impressive

thoroughfare. This is where Dubliners come to shop and some of the adjacent streets, particularly Moore Street, have a colourful parade of stalls and street vendors offering cut-price tobacco.

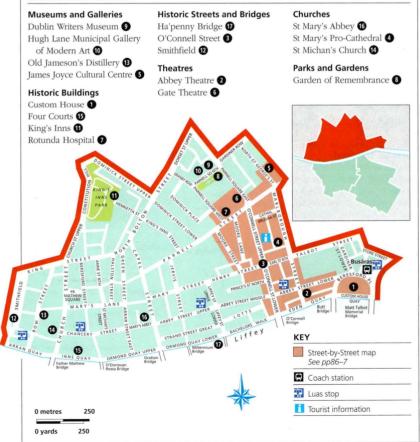
Some public buildings, such as James Gandon's glorious Custom House and majestic Four Courts, together with the historic General Post Office (see p89), add grace to the area. The Rotunda Hospital, Europe's first purpose-built maternity hospital, is another fine building. Dublin's two

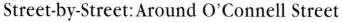
most celebrated theatres, the Abbey and the Gate, act as a cultural magnet, as do the Dublin Writers Museum and the James Joyce Cultural

Centre, two museums dedicated to writers who lived in the city.

Some of the city's finest Georgian streetscapes are found in the north of the city. Many have been neglected for decades, but thankfully some areas, most notably North Great George's Street, are undergoing restoration.

#### SIGHTS AT A GLANCE







Throughout the Georgian era, O'Connell Street was very much the fashionable part of Dublin to live in. However, the 1916 Easter Rising destroyed many of the fine

including much of the **Detail of pavement** mosaic, Moore Street General Post Office - only its original façade still stands. Today, this main thoroughfare is lined with shops and businesses. Other attractions nearby include St Mary's Pro-Cathedral and James Gandon's Custom House, overlooking the Liffey.

# James Jovce\_ **Cultural Centre** This well-restored

Georgian town bouse contains a small Joyce museum 5

Parnell Monument (1911)

#### Gate Theatre

Founded in 1928, the Gate is renowned for its productions of contemporary drama 6



#### **Rotunda Hospital**

Housed in the Rotunda Hospital is a chapel built in the 1750s to the design of Richard Castle. It features lovely stainedglass windows, fluted columns, panelling and intricate iron balustrades



**Moore Street Market** is the busiest of the streets off O'Connell. Be prepared for the shrill cries of the stall holders offering an enormous variety of fresh fruit, vegetables and cut flowers.

The Monument of Light, an elegant stainless steel spire, rises to 120 m (394 ft)

The General Post Office, the grandest building on O'Connell Street, was the centre of the 1916 Rising.

James Larkin Statue (1981)

CATHAL BRU

Suggested route

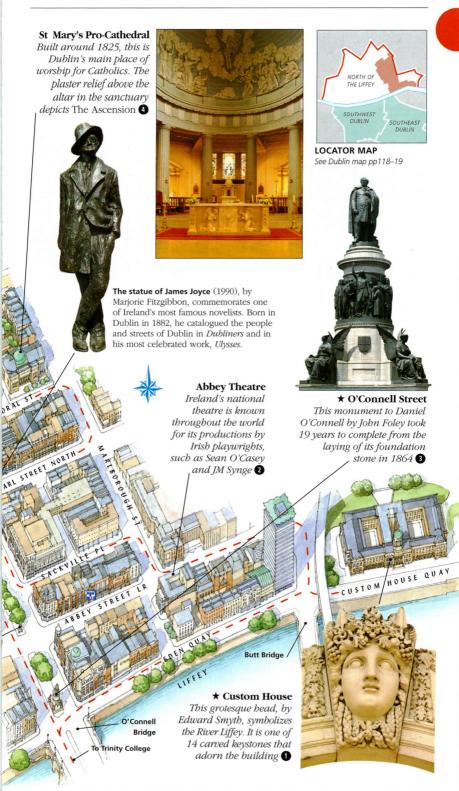
Luas stop

Tourist information

0 metres	50
0 vards	50

#### STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Custom House
- ★ O'Connell Street





Illuminated façade of the Custom House reflected in the Liffey

#### Custom House •

Custom House Quay. Map E2 Tel 888 2538. 10am-12:30pm Mon-Fri (Nov-Mar: Wed-Fri), 2-5pm Sat-Sun. on weekdays only.

This majestic building was designed as the Custom House by the English architect James Gandon, However, just nine years after its completion. the 1800 Act of Union (see p42) transferred the customs and excise business to London. rendering the building practically obsolete. In 1921, supporters of Sinn Féin celebrated their election victory by setting light to what they saw as a symbol of British imperialism. The fire blazed for five days causing extensive damage. Reconstruction took place in 1926, although further deterioration meant that the building was not completely restored until 1991, when it reopened as government offices.

The main façade is made up of pavilions at each end with a Doric portico in its centre. The arms of Ireland crown the two pavilions and a series of 14 allegorical heads, by Dublin sculptor Edward Smyth, form the keystones of arches and entrances. These heads depict Ireland's main rivers and the Atlantic Ocean. Topping the central copper dome is a statue of Commerce, while the

north façade is decorated with figures representing Europe, Africa, America and Asia. The best view of the building is from the south of the Liffey beyond Matt Talbot Bridge.

# Abbey Theatre 2

Lower Abbey St. Map E2. Tel 878
7222. for performances only. Box office 10:30am-7pm Mon-Sat. See also Entertainment in Dublin p108.
www.abbeytheatre.ie



Logo of the Abbey Theatre

Founded in 1898 with WB Yeats and Lady Gregory as codirectors, the Abbey staged its first play in 1904. The early years of this much lauded national theatre witnessed works by WB Yeats, JM Synge and Sean O'Casey. Many were controversial: nationalist sensitivities were severely tested in 1926 during the premiere of O'Casey's *The Plough and the* 

Stars when the flag of the Irish Free State appeared on stage in a scene which featured a pub frequented by prostitutes.

While presenting the work of eminent foreign authors from time to time, the prime objective of the Abbey & Peacock Theatres is to provide a performance space for Irish dramatic writing. Some of the most acclaimed performances have been Brian Friel's Dancing at Lughnasa and Translations, Patrick Kavanagh's Tarry Flynn, Dion Boucicault's The Colleen Baun and Hugh Leonard's Love in the Title.

# O'Connell Street

Map D1-D2.

O'Connell Street is very different from the original plans of Irish aristocrat Luke Gardiner. When he bought the land in the mid-18th century. Gardiner envisioned a grand residential parade with an elegant mall running along its centre. Such plans were short-lived. The construction of Carlisle (now O'Connell) Bridge in 1790 transformed the street into the city's main north-south route. Also, several buildings were destroyed during the 1916 Easter Rising and the Irish Civil War. Since the 1960s

many of the old buildings have been replaced by the plate glass and neon of fast food joints, amusement arcades and chain stores.

A few venerable buildings remain, such as the General Post Office (1818), Gresham Hotel (1817), Clery's department store (1822) and the Royal Dublin Hotel, part of which occupies the street's only original town house.

A walk down the central mall is the most enjoyable way to see the street's mix of architectural styles and take a close look at the series of monuments lining the route. At the south end stands a massive monument to Daniel O'Connell (see p42), unveiled in 1882. The street, which throughout the 19th century had been called Sackville Street, was renamed after O'Connell in 1922. Higher up, almost facing the General Post Office, is an animated statue of James Larkin (1867-1943), leader of the Dublin general strike

Theobald Mathew (1790–1856), founder of the Pioneer Total Abstinence

in 1913. The next

statue is of Father



South end of O'Connell Street with monument to Daniel O'Connell

Movement. At the north end of the street is the obelisk-shaped

monument to Charles Stewart Parnell (1846–91), who was leader of the Home Rule Party and known as the "uncrowned King of Ireland" (see p43). A new addition to O'Connell Street is the Monument of Light, erected on the site where Nelson's column used to be. It is a stainless steel conical spire

Statue of James
Larkin (1981) in
O'Connell Street
to a 10 cm pointed tip of the optical glass at a height of 120

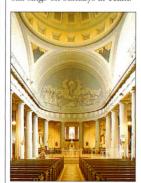
# St Mary's Pro-Cathedral **4**

Marlborough St. **Map** D2. **Tel** 874 5441. 7:30am–6:45pm Mon–Fri (7:15pm Sat), 9am–1:45pm & 5:30pm–7:45pm Sun. **www**.procathedral.ie

Dedicated in 1825 before Catholic emancipation (see p42), St Mary's backstreet site was the best the city's Anglo-Irish leaders would allow a Catholic cathedral.

The façade is based on a Greek temple. Doric columns support a pediment with statues of St Mary, St Patrick and St Laurence O'Toole, 12th-century Archbishop of Dublin and patron saint of the city. Inside, one striking feature is the intricately carved high altar.

St Mary's has a great musical tradition and is home to the famous Palestrina Choir, with which the great tenor John McCormack (see p24) began his career in 1904. The choir still sings on Sundays at 11am.



Austere Neo-Classical interior of St Mary's Pro-Cathedral

# THE GENERAL POST OFFICE (GPO)



Irish Life magazine cover showing the 1916 Easter Rising

Built in 1818 halfway along O'Connell Street, the GPO became a symbol of the 1916 Irish Rising. Members of the Irish Volunteers and Irish Citizen Army seized the building on Easter Monday, and Patrick Pearse (see p44) read out the Proclamation of the Irish Republic from its steps. The rebels remained inside for a week, but shelling from the British eventually forced them out. At first, many Irish people viewed the Rising unfavourably. However, as WB Yeats wrote, matters "changed utterly" and a "terrible beauty was born" when, during the

following weeks, 14 of the leaders were caught and shot at Kilmainham Gaol (see p977. Inside the building is a sculpture of the mythical Irish warrior Cúchulainn (see p26), dedicated to those who died for their part in the Easter Rising.

# James Joyce Cultural Centre **6**

35 North Great George's St. **Map** D1. **Tel** 878 8547. ☐ 9:30am–5pm Mon–5at, 12:30–5pm Sun. ☐ Good Fri & 23–27 Dec. ☑ ☑ www.jamesjoyce.ie

This agreeable stop on the literary tourist trail is primarily a meeting place for Joyce enthusiasts, but is also worth visiting for its Georgian interior. The centre is in a 1784 town house which was built for the Earl of Kenmare. Michael Stapleton, one of the greatest stuccoers of his time, contributed to the plasterwork, of which the friezes are particularly noteworthy.

The main literary display is an absorbing set of biographies of around 50 characters from Iovce's novel Ulvsses, who were based on real Dublin people. Professor Dennis J Maginni, a peripheral character in Ulysses, ran a dancing school from this town house. Leopold and Molly Bloom, the central characters of Ulysses, lived a short walk away at No. 7 Eccles Street. The centre also organizes walking tours of Joyce's Dublin, so a visit is a must for all Joycean zealots.

At the top of the road, on Great Denmark Street, is the Jesuit-run Belvedere College attended by Joyce between 1893 and 1898. He recalls his unhappy schooldays there in A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. The college's interior contains some of Stapleton's best and most colourful plasterwork (1785).

#### JAMES JOYCE (1882-1941)

Born in Dublin, Joyce spent most of his adult life in Europe. He used the city of Dublin as the setting for all his major works including *Dubliners*, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and *Ulysses*. Joyce claimed that if the city was ever destroyed it could be recreated through the pages of *Ulysses*. However, the Irish branded the book pornographic and banned it until the 1960s.



#### Gate Theatre 6

1 Cavendish Row. Map D1.

of or performances only. Box office
Tel 874 4045. \( \sum \) 10am-7pm MonSat. See also Entertainment in
Dublin p108. www.gate-theatre.ie



**Entrance to the Gate Theatre** 

Renowned for its staging of contemporary international drama in Dublin, the Gate Theatre was founded in 1928 by Hilton Edwards and Mícheál Mac Liammóir. The latter is now best remembered for *The* 

Importance of Being Oscar, his long-running one-man show about the writer Oscar Wilde (see p22). An early success was Denis Johnston's The Old Lady Says No. so-called because of the margin notes made on one of his scripts by Lady Gregory, founding director of the Abbey Theatre (see p88). Although still noted for staging new plays, the Gate's current output often includes classic Irish plays. Among the young talent to get their first break here were James Mason and a teenage Orson Welles.

# Rotunda Hospital •

Parnell Square West. **Map** D1. **Tel** 873 0700.

Standing in the middle of Parnell Square is Europe's first purpose-built maternity hospital. Founded in 1745 by Dr Bartholomew Mosse, the design of the hospital is similar to that of Leinster House (see p65). German-born architect Richard Castle designed both.

At the east end of the hospital is the Rotunda, after which the hospital is named. It was built in 1764 by John Ensor as Assembly Rooms to host fundraising functions and concerts. Franz Liszt gave a concert here in 1843.

On the first floor is a chapel featuring striking stained-glass windows and exuberant Rococo plasterwork and ceiling (1755) by the stuccoer Bartholomew Cramillion.

Across the road from the hospital is Conway's Pub. Opened in 1745, it is a popular retreat for expectant fathers.



Stained-glass Venetian window (c.1863) in Rotunda Hospital's chapel

# Garden of Remembrance 8

Parnell Square. **Map** C1. dawn–dusk daily.

At the northern end of Parnell Square is a small, peaceful park, dedicated to the men and women who have died in the pursuit of Irish freedom. The Garden of Remembrance marks the spot where several leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising were held overnight before being taken to Kilmainham Gaol (see p97), and was also where the Irish Volunteers movement was formed in 1913.

Designed by Daithí Hanly, the garden was opened by President Eamon de Valera (see p45) in 1966, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising. In the centre of the garden's wellkept lawns is a cruciform pool. A mosaic on the floor of the pool depicts abandoned, broken swords. spears and shields, symbolizing peace. The focal point at one end of the garden is a large Garden of Remembrance bronze sculpture

by Oisín Kelly (1971) of the legendary *Children of Lir*, who were changed into swans by their stepmother (see p27).



Gallery of Writers at Dublin Writers Museum

## Dublin Writers Museum **©**

Opened in 1991, the museum occupies a tasteful 18th-century town house. There are displays relating to Irish literature in all its forms from 300 years ago to the present day. The exhibits include paintings, manuscripts, letters, rare editions and Children of Lir in the mementoes of many

authors. There are a number of temporary exhibits and a sumptuously decorated Gallery of Writers upstairs. The museum also hosts frequent

of Ireland's finest

poetry readings and lectures. A good café and a specialist bookstore, providing an out-of-print search service, add to the relaxed, friendly ambience.

# Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art **©**

Charlemont House, Parnell Square
North. Map C1. Tel 222 5565.

☐ 9:30am – 6pm Tue—Thu (Apr–Sep
8pm Thu), 9:30am – 5pm Fri & Sat,
11am – 5pm Sun. ☐ 23–25 Dec &
public hols. www.hughlane.ie

Art collector Sir Hugh Lane donated his collection of Impressionist paintings to the Dublin Corporation in 1905, but the lack of a suitable location for them prompted Lane to begin transferring his gift to the National Gallery in London. The Corporation then proposed Charlemont House and Lane relented. However. before Lane's revised will could be witnessed, he died on board the Lusitania (see p178). This led to a 50-year dispute which has been resolved by the Corporation and the National Gallery swapping the collection every five years.

Besides the Lane bequest of paintings by Degas, Courbet and Monet, the gallery has an extensive collection of modern Irish paintings and a sculpture hall with work by Rodin and others. An exciting new addition is a bequest by John Edwards of the contents of Francis Bacon's London studio. A new extension will double the exhibition space by 2006.



Beach Scene (c.1876) by Edgar Degas, Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery



Detail of wood carving (c.1724) at St Michan's Church

# King's Inns 0

Henrietta St/Constitution Hill. **Map** B1. *to the public.* 

This classically proportioned public building was founded in 1795 as a place of residence and study for barristers. To build it, James Gandon chose to seal off the end of Henrietta Street, which at the time was one of Dublin's most fashionable addresses. Francis Johnston added the graceful cupola in 1816, and the building was finally completed in 1817.

Inside is a fine Dining Hall, and the Registry of Deeds (formerly the Prerogative Court). The west façade has two doorways flanked by Classical caryatids carved by Edward Smyth. The male figure, with book and quill, represents the law.

Sadly, much of the area around Constitution Hill is less attractive than it was in Georgian times. However, the gardens, which are open to the public, are still pleasing.

# Smithfield @

Map A2.

Laid out in the mid-17th century as a marketplace, Smithfield used to be one of Dublin's oldest residential areas. However, the two and a half acre space received a £3.5 million makeover with a

well-designed pedestrian cobbled plaza. It is used as a venue for outdoor civic events and is lit by tall gas lighting masts. The traditional horse fair is still held here on the first Sunday of the month and is well worth seeing.

# Old Jameson's Distillery **®**

Bow St. **Map** A2. *Tel* 807 2355.

9am-6pm daily (last tour: 5:30pm).

Good Friday, 25 & 26 Dec.

Proof of recent investment in the emerging Smithfield area is this large exhibition in a restored part of John Jameson's distillery, which produced whiskey from 1780 until 1971. A visit here starts with a video and further whiskey-related facts are then explained on a 40-minute tour. This takes you around displays set out as a working distillery, with different rooms devoted to the various stages of production.

The tour guides show how the Irish process differs from that of Scotch whisky: here the barley is dried with clean air, while in Scotland it is smoked over peat. The claim is that the Irish product is a smoother, less smoky tipple. After the tour, visitors can test this in the bar.



Sampling different brands at Old Jameson's Distillery

# St Michan's Church @

Church St. **Map** B3. **Tel** 872 4154.

mid-Mar–Oct: 10am–12:45pm & 2-4:45pm Mon–Fri, 10am–12:45pm Sat; Nov–mid-Mar: 12:30–3:30pm Mon–Fri, 10am–12:45pm Sat. 
Imited.

Largely rebuilt in 1686 on the site of an 11th-century Hiberno-Viking church, the dull facade of St Michan's hides a more exciting interior. Deep in its vaults lie a number of bodies preserved because of the dry atmosphere created by the church's magnesian limestone walls. Their wooden caskets, however, have cracked open, revealing the intact bodies, complete with skin and strands of hair. Among those thought to have been mummified in this way are the brothers Henry and John Sheares, leaders of the 1798 rebellion (see p41), who were executed that year.

Other less gory attractions include the magnificent wood carving of fruits and violins and other instruments above the choir. There is also an organ (1724) on which Handel is said to have played. It is thought that the churchyard contains the unmarked grave of United Irishman Robert Emmet (see p 77), leader of the abortive 1803 Rising.

#### Four Courts 6

Inns Quay. **Map** B3. **Tel** 872 5555. 9:30am-12:30pm, 2-4:30pm Mon-Fri (when courts in session).

Completed in 1796 by James Gandon, this majestic public building overlooks the River Liffey. It was virtually gutted 120 years later during the Irish Civil War (see pp44–5) when government forces bombarded anti-Treaty rebels into submission. The adjacent Public Records Office, with its irreplaceable collection of historical and legal documents dating back to the 12th century, was destroyed by fire.

By 1932, the main buildings were sympathetically restored using Gandon's original design. An imposing copper-covered lantern dome rises above the six-columned Corinthian portico, which is crowned with the figures of Moses, Justice, Mercy, Wisdom and Authority. This central section is flanked by two wings containing the four original courts: Common Pleas, Chancery, Exchequer and King's Bench. You can walk into the central waiting hall under the grand dome; an information panel to the right of the entrance gives details about the building's history.

# St Mary's Abbey 6

Founded by Benedictines in 1139, but transferred to the Cistercian order just eight years later, this was one of the largest and most important monasteries in medieval Ireland. As well as controlling extensive estates, including



The Ha'penny Bridge looking from Temple Bar to Liffey Street

whole villages, mills and fisheries, the abbey acted as state treasury and meeting place for the Council of Ireland. It was during a council meeting in St Mary's that "Silken Thomas" Fitzgerald (see p.38) renounced his allegiance to Henry VIII and marched out to raise the short-lived rebellion of 1534. The monastery was dissolved in 1539 and during the 17th century the site served as a quarry. Stone from St Mary's was used in the construction of Essex Bridge (replaced by Grattan Bridge in 1874), just to the south of the abbey.

All that remains of the abbey today is the vaulted chamber of the Chapter House. This contains a historical display and a model of how the entire complex would have looked 800 years ago.

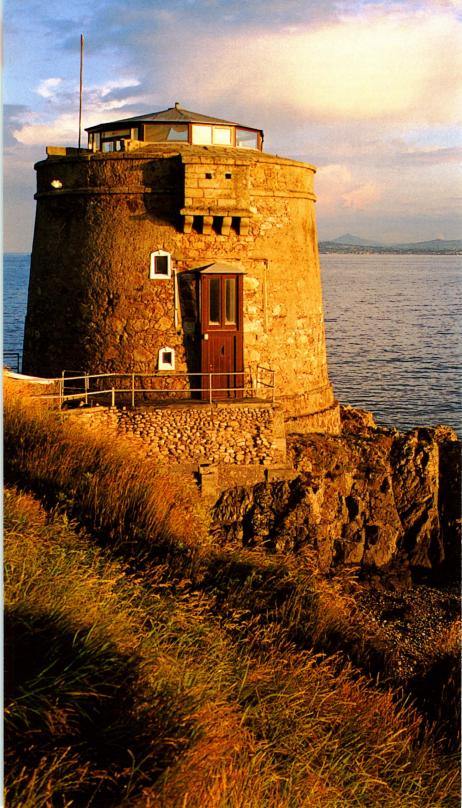
# Ha'penny Bridge **©**

Map D3.

Linking the Temple Bar area (see p78) and Liffey Street, this high-arched cast-iron footbridge is used by thousands of people every day. It was built by John Windsor, an ironworker from Shropshire, England. One of Dublin's most photographed sights, it was originally named the Wellington Bridge. It is now officially called the Liffey Bridge, but is also known as the Metal Bridge. Opened in 1816, the bridge got its better known nickname from the halfpenny toll that was levied on it up until 1919. A recent restoration, which included the installation of period lanterns, has made the bridge even more attractive.



James Gandon's Four Courts overlooking the River Liffey



# FURTHER AFIELD

here are many interesting sights just outside the city centre. The best part of a day can be spent exploring the western suburbs taking in the Museum of Modern Art housed in the splendid Royal Kilmainham Hospital and the eerie Kilmainham Gaol. Phoenix Park, Europe's largest city park, is a good place for a stroll and also has a zoo. Further north are the National Botanic Gardens, with over 20,000 plant species

Candelabra at Malahide Castle

from around the world. Nearby is Marino Casino, one of Ireland's finest examples of Palladian architecture. The magnificent coastline with its stunning views of Dublin Bay is easily reached by the DART rail network. It encompasses the towering promontory of Howth, while the highlights of the southern stretch are around Dalkey village and Killiney Bay. One of many Martello towers built as defences along this coast is known as the James Joyce at Tower and houses a collection of Joyce memorabilia. To the

northeast, a bit further from the city centre, is Malahide Castle, former home of the Talbot family.

#### SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

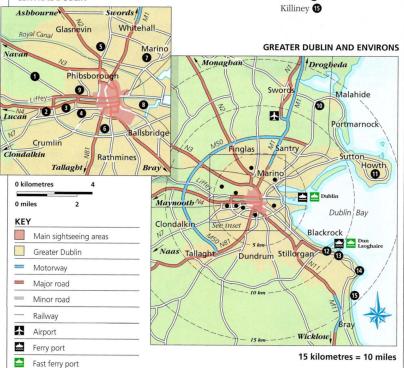
# Museums and Galleries Collins Barracks ① Guinness Storehouse ① Irish Museum of Modern Art/ Royal Hospital Kilmainham ③ James Joyce Tower ①

Kilmainham Gaol ②
Shaw's Birthplace ⑤
Waterways Visitors' Centre ③
Parks and Gardens
National Botanic Gardens ⑤
Phoenix Park ⑥

Malahide Castle 
Marino Casino

Towns and Villages
Dalkey (1)
Dun Laoghaire (2)
Howth (1)
Killiney (3)

#### **CENTRAL DUBLIN**



# Phoenix Park •

Just to the west of the city centre, ringed by an 11-km (7-mile) wall, is Europe's largest enclosed city park. The name "Phoenix" is said to be a corruption of the Gaelic Fionn Uisce, or "clear water". The

Phoenix Column is crowned by a statue of the mythical bird. Phoenix Park originated in 1662, when the Duke of Ormonde turned the land into a deer park. In 1745 it was landscaped and opened to the public.

Near Park Gate is the lakeside People's Garden – the only part of the park which has been cultivated. A little further on are the Zoological Gardens, established in 1830, making them the third oldest zoo in the world. The zoo is renowned for the successful breeding of lions, including the one that appears at the beginning of MGM movies. The African Plains savannah houses the larger residents.

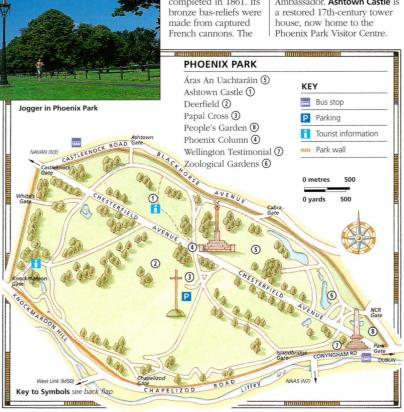
In addition to the Phoenix Column, the park has two other conspicuous monuments.

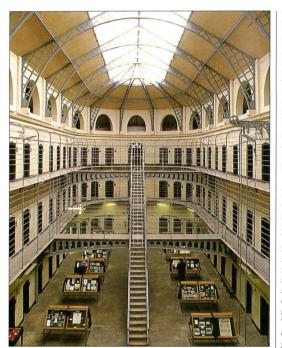
The Wellington
Testimonial, a 63-m
(206-ft) obelisk, was
begun in 1817 and
completed in 1861. Its
bronze bas-reliefs were
made from captured
French cannons. The



Pope John Paul II celebrating Mass in Phoenix Park in 1979

27-m (90-ft) steel Papal Cross marks the spot where the pope celebrated Mass in front of one million people in 1979. Buildings within the park include two 18th-century houses: Áras an Uachtaráin. the Irish President's official residence, for which 525 tickets are issued every Saturday for a free guided tour, and Deerfield, home of the US Ambassador. Ashtown Castle is a restored 17th-century tower house, now home to the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre.





Restored central hall at Kilmainham Gaol

## Kilmainham Gaol 2

Inchicore Rd, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. Tel 453 5984. 51B, 51C, 78A, 79. Apr-Sep: 9:30am-5pm daily; Oct-Mar: 9:30am-4pm Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm Sun (last adm: 1 hr 15 mins before closing). 8 25 & 26 Dec. 🟀 🌠 😐 🖺

A long tree-lined avenue runs from the Royal Hospital Kilmainham to the grim, grey bulk of Kilmainham Gaol. The building opened in 1796, but was restored in the 1960s. During its 130 years as a prison, it housed many of those involved in the fight for Irish independence, including Robert Emmet (see p77) and Charles Stewart Parnell (p43). The last prisoner held was Eamon de Valera (p45), who was released on 16 July, 1924.

Tours start in the chapel, where Joseph Plunkett married Grace Gifford just a few hours before he faced the firing squad for his part in the 1916 Rising (see pp44–5). The tours end in the prison yard where Plunkett's badly wounded colleague James Connolly, unable to stand up, was strapped | The Royal Hospital Kilmainham

into a chair before being shot. You also pass the dank cells of those involved in the 1798, 1803, 1848 and 1867 uprisings, as well as the punishment cells and hanging room. Exhibits in the central hall include personal mementos of some of the former inmates and depictions of various events which took place in the Gaol until it closed in 1924.

The Asgard, an arms-running ship previously exhibited in the courtyard, has been removed from display.

# Irish Museum of Modern Art - Royal Hospital Kilmainham 3

Military Road, Kilmainham, Dublin 8. Tel 612 9900. 
Heuston Station. 26, 51, 51B, 78A, 90, 123. Irish Museum of Modern Art 10am-5:30pm Tue-Sat, noon-5:30pm Sun & public hols (last adm: 5:15pm). Good Fri & 24-26 Dec. 💋 🛄 📋 & limited. www.imma.ie

Ireland's finest surviving 17thcentury building was laid out in 1680, styled on Les Invalides in Paris. It was built by Sir William Robinson as a home for 300 wounded soldiers - a role it kept until 1927. When it was completed, people were so impressed by its Classical symmetry that it was suggested it would be better used as a campus for Trinity College. The Baroque chapel has fine carvings and intricate stained glass. The plaster ceiling is a replica of the original, which fell in 1902. The Formal Gardens, restored using many of the 17th-century designs, are now open to the public.

In 1991, the hospital's former residential quarters became the Irish Museum of Modern Art. The collection includes a cross-section of Irish and international modern and contemporary art. Works are displayed on a rotating basis and include group and solo shows, retrospectives and special visiting exhibitions. A recent addition is the separate, multi-screen film theatre.





Drinking Guinness at a local pub

#### Guinness Storehouse 4

St James's Gate, Dublin 8 Tel 408 4800. 3 78A, 51B, 123. 9:30am-5pm (8pm Jul & Aug) daily. Good Fri. 24-26 Dec. 1 Jan. ⊌ L · □ 11 www.guinness-storehouse.com

The Guinness storehouse is a new development based in St James's Gate Brewery, the original house of Guinness. now completely remodelled. This 1904 listed building covers nearly four acres of floor space over six floors built around a huge pint glass atrium. The first impression the visitor has is of walking into a large glass pint with light spilling down from above and a copy of the original lease signed by Arthur Guinness enshrined on the floor. The Ingredients section is next where visitors can touch, smell and feel the ingredients through interactive displays. The tour continues into an authentic Georgian anteroom to 'meet' Arthur Guinness and see him at work. The Brewing Process is a noisy, steamy and 'hoppy' area giving the impression of brewing all around with full explanation of the process. The historical development of Guinness cooperage is accompanied by video footage of the craft. Models and displays tell the story of Guinness transportation, the appeal of Guinness worldwide, and their popular advertising campaigns. The tour ends with a generous tasting of draught Guinness in the traditional Brewery Bar and the rooftop Gravity Bar.

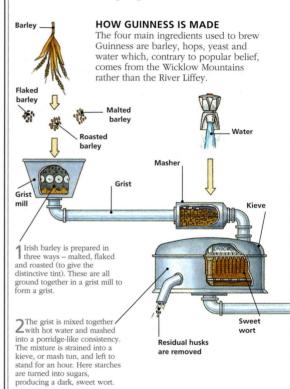
# The Brewing of Guinness



Label from a **Guinness** bottle

Guinness is a black beer, known as stout", renowned for its distinctive malty flavour and smooth creamy head. From its humble beginnings over 200 years ago, the Guinness brewery site at St James's Gate now sprawls across 26 ha (65 acres). It is the largest brewery in Europe and exports beers to more than 120 countries through-

out the world. Other famous brands owned by Guinness include Harp Lager and Smithwick's Ale.





Guinness

advertising bas become almost as famous as the product itself. Since 1929, when the first advertisement

announced that "Guinness is Good for You", poster and television advertising campaigns have employed many amusing images of both animals and people.

#### ARTHUR GUINNESS

**Arthur Guinness** 

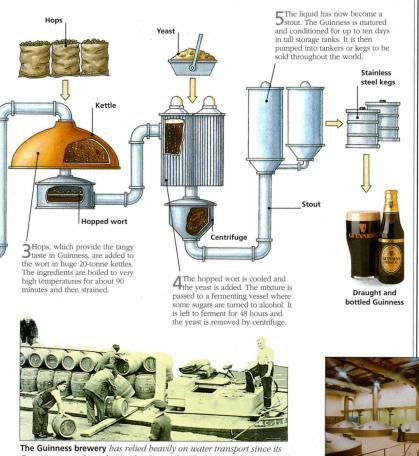
In December 1759, 34-yearold Arthur Guinness signed a 9,000-year lease at an annual rent of £45 to take over St James's Gate Brewery, which had lain vacant for almost ten years. At the time the brewing industry in Dublin was at a low ebb - the standard of ale

was much criticized and in rural Ireland beer was virtually unknown, as whiskey, gin and poteen were the more favoured drinks. Furthermore, Irish beer was under threat from imports. Guinness started brewing ale,

but was also aware of a black ale called porter, produced in London. This new beer was so called because of its popularity with porters at

Engraving (c.1794) of a satisfied customer

Billingsgate and Covent Garden markets. Guinness decided to stop making ales and develop his own recipe for porter (the word "stout" was not used until the 1920s). So successful was the switch that he made his first export shipment in 1769.



first export was shipped to England in 1769. The barges, which up until 1961 made the short trip with their cargo up the Liffey to Dublin Port, were a familiar sight on the river. Once at port, the stout would be loaded on to buge tanker ships for worldwide distribution.

Steel kettles used in modern-day brewing



Giant water lilies in the Lily House, National Botanic Gardens

#### National Botanic Gardens 6

Botanic Ave, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. *Tel* 857 0909. 3 13, 19, 19A, 83, 134. 11 Jun-Sep: 10am-6pm daily; May & Oct: 10am-5pm daily; Nov-Mar: 10am-4pm Sat & Sun; April: 12-5pm Sat & Sun; April: 12-5pm Sat & Sun; April: 12-5pm Sat & Sun; April: 13-5pm Sat & Sun; April: 13-5pm

Opened in 1795, the National Botanic Gardens are Ireland's foremost centre of botany and horticulture. They still possess an old-world feel, thanks to the beautiful cast-iron Palm House and other curvilinear glasshouses. These were built between 1843 and 1869 by Richard Turner, the architect who was also responsible for the Palm House at Kew Gardens, London, and the glasshouses at Belfast's Botanic Gardens (see p.278).

The 20-ha (49-acre) park contains over 20,000 different plant species. Particularly attractive are the colourful old-fashioned Victorian carpet bedding, the rich collections of cacti and orchids, renowned rose garden, and 30-m (100-ft) high redwood tree.

The gardens back on to the huge Glasnevin or Prospect Cemetery where many of Ireland's political figures are buried, including Charles Stewart Parnell (see p43) and Daniel O'Connell (see p42).

# Shaw's Birthplace 6



Kitchen at Shaw's Birthplace

Playwright and Nobel prizewinner George Bernard Shaw was born in this house on 26 July 1856. In 1876 he followed his mother to London. She had left four years earlier with her daughters, fed up with her husband's drinking habits. It was in London that Shaw met his wife Charlotte Payne-Townsend. He stayed in England until his death in 1950.

Inside the house visitors can see the young Shaw's bedroom and the kitchen where the author remembered he drank "much tea out of brown delft left to 'draw' on the hob until it was pure tannin". Although there is little on Shaw's productive years, the home gives a fair idea of the lifestyle of a Victorian middle-class family.

#### Marino Casino •

Cherrymount Crescent. *Tel* 833 1618.

DART to Clontarf. 20A, 20B, 27, 42, 42C, 123. May-Oct 10am-5pm daily (Jun-Sep: 6pm); Nov-Apr: noon-4pm Sat & Sun (Apr: 5pm). Description obligatory (last tour 45 min before closing). www.heritageireland.ie

This delightful little villa (see pp40-41), designed by Sir William Chambers in the 1760s for Lord Charlemont. now sits incongruously next to a busy road and a housing estate. Originally built as a summer house for the Marino Estate, the villa survives although the main house was pulled down in 1921. The Casino is acknowledged to be one of the finest examples of Neo-Classical architecture

Carved stone lion at Marino Casino

Some innovative features were used in its construction, including chimneys disguised as urns and hollow columns that accommodate drains. Outside, four carved stone lions, thought to be by English sculptor Joseph Wilton, stand guard at each of the corners.

in Ireland.

The building's squat, compact exterior conceals 16 rooms built on three floors around a central staircase. The ground floor comprises a spacious hall and a saloon, with beautiful silk hangings, elaborate flooring and a coffered ceiling. On the first floor is the ostentatious State Room.

# Waterways Visitors' Centre O

Grand Canal Quay, Dublin 2. **Tel** 677
7510. □ DART to Grand Canal Dock.
□ 2, 3. □ Jun–Sep: 9:30am–5:30pm
daily; Oct–May: 12:30 pm–5pm Wed–
Sun (last adm 45 mins before closing).
□ 25 Dec. Ø □ on request.

Fifteen minutes' walk from Trinity College this building overlooks the Grand Canal Basin. Audiovisual displays and models illustrate Ireland's inland waterways and the wildlife found on and around them. One of the most interesting displays focuses on their construction: in the 18th century, canals were often called "navigations" and the men who built them were "navigators", a term shortened to "navvies".

#### **DUBLIN'S CANALS**

The affluent Georgian era witnessed the building of the Grand and Royal canals linking Dublin with the River Shannon and the west coast. These two canals became the main arteries of trade and public transport in Ireland from the 1760s until the coming of the railways, which took much of the passenger business, almost a century later. However, the canals continued to carry freight until after World War II, finally closing to commercial traffic in 1960. Today the canals are well maintained and used mainly for pleasure-boating, cruising and fishing.



Late 18th-century engraving of passenger ferry passing Harcourt Lock on the Grand Canal, taken from a painting by James Barralet



Stretch of the Grand Canal near Waterways Visitors' Centre

# National Museum at Collins Barracks

Benburb St, Dublin 7. **Tel** 677 7444. <u>25, 25A,</u> 66, 67, 90. 10am-5pm Tue-Sat, 2-5pm Sun. Good Fri, 25 Dec. <u>8</u>

Close to Phoenix Park and just across the Liffey from the Guinness Brewery stands the wonderful decorative arts and history annexe of the National Museum (see pp66-7). Its setting in this historic building is an inspired move. The massive complex was commissioned by King William III in 1700, just ten years after victory at the Battle of the Boyne, and was the largest barracks in his domain. with accommodation for over 5,000 people. It was in use

right up to the 1990s. Originally known as Dublin Barracks, the prefix was changed to "Royal" in 1803. After Irish indepen-dence the barracks was finally named for Michael Collins, the first commanderin-chief of the Irish Army.

The large central courtyard, measured at one hundred marching paces, is an object lesson in simplicity. In marked contrast to the grey institutional exterior, the museum's interior presents the exhibits in an innovative way that makes use of the latest technology.

Furniture, silver and scientific instrument collections form the bulk of items on show in the South Block. In the West Block, however, visitors get an insight into the

history, work and development of the National Museum. The Out of Storage exhibit brings together a wide array of artifacts from around the world, complemented by banks of interactive multimedia computers. One of the highlights of the museum is the Curator's Choice section where 25 unusual exhibits – such as, for instance, an early hurling stick and ball – are displayed with a story line that explains their cultural significance.

There is also a large hall set aside for temporary displays. Expansion plans incorporate the entire barracks and include the building of a new wing.



An 18th-century, gilded wooden chair on display at Collins Barracks



The oak-beamed Great Hall at Malahide Castle

#### Malahide Castle @

Near the seaside dormitory town of Malahide stands a huge castle set in 100 ha (250 acres) of grounds. The castle's core dates from the 14th century but later additions, such as its rounded towers, have given it a classic fairytale appearance. The building served as a stately home for the Talbot family until 1973. They were staunch supporters of James II: on the day of the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 (see p244), 14 members of the family breakfasted here; none came back for supper.

Guided tours take you round the castle's collection of 18thcentury Irish furniture, the oak-beamed Great Hall and the impressively carved Oak Room. Part of the Portrait Collection, on loan from the National Gallery (see pp70–71), can be seen here. It includes portraits of the Talbot family and other figures such as Wolfe Tone (see p41).

In the old corn store is the Fry Model Railway, started in the 1920s by Cyril Fry, a local railway engineer. The 240 sq m (2,500 sq ft) exhibit contains models of Irish trains, miniatures of stations, streets and local landmarks such as the River Liffey and Howth Head.

#### Howth 0

Co Dublin. DART. Howth Castle grounds 8am-sunset daily.

The commercial fishing town of Howth marks the northern limit of Dublin Bay. Howth Head, a huge rocky mass, has lovely views of the bay. A footpath runs around the tip of Howth Head, which is known as the "Nose". Nearby is Baily Lighthouse (1814). Sadly, much of this area – some of Ireland's prime real estate – has suffered from building development.

To the west of the town is Howth Castle, which dates back to Norman times. Its grounds are particularly beautiful in May and June when the rhododendrons and azaleas are in full bloom.The National Transport Museum in the grounds is worth a visit.

Ireland's Eye, an islet and bird sanctuary where puffins nest, can be reached by a short boat trip from Howth.

# Dun Laoghaire **@**

Co Dublin. A DART. National
Maritime Museum Tel 280 0969.
Cosed for renovation (due to recopen spring 2005). Comhaltas
Ceoltóirí Éireann Tel 280 0295.

music Wed, Fri & Sat nights, céilí Fri

Ireland's major passenger ferry port and yachting centre, with its brightly painted villas, parks and palm



Baily Lighthouse on the southeastern tip of Howth Head



Yachts anchored in Dun Laoghaire harbour

trees, can sometimes exude a decidedly continental feel. Many visitors head straight out of Dun Laoghaire (pronounced Dunleary) but the town offers some magnificent walks around the harbour and to the lighthouse along the east pier. The villages of Sandycove and Dalkey can be reached via "The Metals" footpath which runs alongside the railway line.

In the 1837 Mariners' Church is the National Maritime Museum. Exhibits include a longboat used by French officers during Wolfe Tone's unsuccessful invasion at Bantry in 1796 (see pp168–9).

Up the road in Monkstown's Belgrave Square is the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Ireland's main centre for traditional music and dance, with music sessions and céilís (dances).

( a



# Joyce Tower

hundred years later James Joyce (see p90) stayed here for a week as the guest of

Oliver St John Gogarty, poet and model for the *Ulysses* character Buck Mulligan. Gogarty rented the tower for a mere £8 per year. Inside the squat 12-m (40-ft) tower's granite walls is a small museum with some of Joyce's correspondence, personal belongings, such

as his guitar, cigar case and walking stick, and his death mask. There are also photographs and first editions of his works, including a de

luxe edition (1935) of *Ulysses* illustrated by Henri Matisse. The roof, originally a gun platform but later used as a sunbathing deck by Gogarty,

affords marvellous views of Dublin Bay. Below the tower is Forty Foot Pool, traditionally an all-male nude bathing spot, but now open to all.

# Dalkey @

Co Dublin. 📮 DART.

Dalkey was once known as the "Town of Seven Castles", but only two of these now remain. They are both on the main street of this attractive village whose tight, winding roads and charming villas give it a Mediterranean feel.

A little way offshore is tiny Dalkey Island, a rocky bird sanctuary with a Martello tower and a medieval Benedictine church, both now in a poor state of repair. In summer the island can be reached by a boat ride from the town's Coliemore Harbour.

# Killiney 6

Co Dublin. A DART to Dalkey or Killiney.

South of Dalkey, the coastal road climbs uphill before tumbling down into the village of Killiney. The route offers one of the most scenic vistas on this stretch of the east coast. with views often compared to those across the Bay of Naples. Howth Head is clearly visible to the north, with Bray Head (see p133) and the foothills of the Wicklow Mountains (see pp138-9) to the south. There is another exhilarating view from the top of Killiney Hill Park, off Victoria Road well worth tackling the short steep trail for. Down below is the popular pebbly beach, Killinev Strand.

## James Joyce Tower **©**

Sandycove, Co Dublin. *Tel* 280 9265.

DART to Sandycove. 59.

10am-Spm Mon-Sat, 2-6pm
Sun & public hols. 1-2pm
weekdays. 7

Standing on a rocky promontory above the village of Sandycove is this Martello tower. It is one of 15 defensive towers erected between Dublin and Bray in 1804 to withstand a threatened invasion by Napoleon. One



Shopfronts on the main street of Dalkey

# SHOPPING IN DUBLIN

ublin has two main shopping thorough-fares, each on either side of the River Liffey. On the north side, the area around Henry Street is where swanky department stores and small specialty shops beckon. The south side, especially trendy Grafton Street with its upmarket boutiques and shops, is reputed for its glamour and style. Yet, despite the

wide choice of internationally known

brands and retail chains found through-



Sign from a specialty food shop

out the city, the spirit of Dublin shines in the cheerful cacophony of its street markets, many of which stock a cornucopia of highly original Irish crafts and gifts. Dublin is also a haven for those searching for bargains and second-hand deals on everything from books and CDs to clothes and trinkets.

There is something for everyone in this lively city, and the following pages will tell you where to start looking.

#### WHERE TO SHOP

Temple Bar has become a staple tourist destination. While the area is usually frequented by revellers at night, the area is a treasure trove of funky craft, design and souvenir outlets during the day.

Those who prefer a more relaxed and upmarket shopping experience should head for the the Old City. To the west of Temple Bar, between Parliment and Fishamble Streets, it is home to sleek high-end designer stores and cosmopolitan cafés, and is a good alternative to the often frenetic pace of Temple Bar.

Dublin's rapid development has contributed to the growth of bustling markets in areas that, until recently, were little more than wastelands. The first of these areas is the strip known as the Docklands, running along the shores of the Liffey, particularly on the north side, east of Custom House. New shops, restaurants

and markets are opening up regularly in the area.

Around Liffey Street, new apartment blocks have been built, leading to the regeneration of several old shopping areas. In contrast to just a few years back, Capel Street is now a thriving location, as is the impressive new Bloom's Lane at the Millennium Bridge.

#### WHEN TO SHOP

Shopping hours are generally from 9am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday. Some department stores open from noon to 6pm on Sundays. Many shops stay open until 9pm on Thursdays.

#### **HOW TO PAY**

Major credit cards such as Visa and Mastercard are accepted in almost all outlets. Sales tax or VAT is usually 21 per cent, which non-EU visitors can redeem at airports and ports. Redemption forms are available at points of purchase.



**Brown Thomas department store** 

#### **DEPARTMENT STORES**

The best known department stores in Dublin are **Arnott's** and the newly refurbished **Roches Stores**, both on Henry Street. One of Dublin's oldest shops, **Clery's** on O'Connell Street, stocks everything from Irish-made gifts and clothing to internationally recognized branded goods. Prominent Irish retailer **Brown Thomas** is known for its upmarket style.

A branch of the British department store Debenhams is found in the Jervis Centre. There are also numerous Marks & Spencer shops, including branches on Grafton Street and Mary Street.

#### SHOPPING CENTRES

There are three main shopping centres in Dublin – two on the south side and one on the north. South of the Liffey, you will find **Stephen's Green Centre** and the **Powerscourt** 



Shoppers on busy Grafton Street



The colourful George's Street Arcade

Centre. Well known for its trendiness, Stephen's Green Centre is one of the largest enclosed shopping areas in the city, with scores of shops under its roof. These include many craft and gift stores, clothing outlets and an abundance of restaurants.

In an enclosed four-storey Georgian courtyard, the Powerscourt Centre is more upmarket and plush. It is home to many fine boutiques, restaurants and lovely antique shops.

On the north side of the river is the relatively new **Jervis Centre**, which houses many British chain stores as well as a number of Irish retailers. is a good place for records, books, Irish memorabilia and bric-à-brac, as well as funky clothing and accessories.

#### SOUVENIRS AND GIFTS

The most popular destination for souvenirs in Dublin is unsurprisingly found at the

home of Ireland's most popular drink – the **Guinness Storehouse** (see pp 98–9). The interactive tours of the storehouse are best rounded off with a visit to the gift shop, where a multitude of Guinness branded souvenirs and clothing can be bought.

Nassau Street has a concentration of fine tourist gift shops, such as Heraldic Artists.



Finely crafted pottery

## MARKETS

On Dublin's north side, just off Henry Street, the famous and still-evolving Moore Street Market hosts a daily fruit and vegetable bazaar, replete with very vocal street vendors. The area has recently become a hive of ethnic shops, where you can source anything from Iranian dance music CDs to tinned bok choi.

The wonderful **Temple Bar** Food Market, where you will find a wide range of organically produced items, is held every Saturday. A particularly popular stall sells delicious fresh oysters and wine by the glass – a great stop-off point for the weary shopper.

Quirky, quaint and unique, George's Street Arcade is open seven days a week and has many second-hand shops. It which assists visitors in tracing their ancestry. **Knobs and** 

ancestry. Knobs and Knockers specializes in a wide range of door accessories. For a more varied range of gifts on the same street, drop in to the Kilkenny Shop. This store stocks uniquely Irish ceramic wares, the famous Waterford crystal and many other handcrafted products.

Across the road, the gift shop at Trinity College sells university memorabilia and mementos of the *Book of Kells*, as well as many other souvenirs.

Rather less upmarket, Carroll's Irish Gift Stores, a chain of souvenir and clothing outlets, are difficult to miss while traversing the city. They stock a surfeit of kitschy leprechauns and other such amusing odds and ends.

## **FOOD AND WINE**

Connoisseurs of fine wines and whiskies have many choices in Dublin. Claudio's, where the proprietor often attends to visitors personally, is one of the city's best fine wine shops. Cabot & Co boasts one of the largest selections of wine, as well as cellaring facilities. The Celtic Whiskey Shop stocks a variety of Irish and Scotch whiskies, and the staff are very knowledgeable.

A number of gourmet food retailers add culinary character to the city. Sheridan's Cheesemongers specializes in Irish farmhouse cheeses but stocks a wide array of other cheeses and foods too. La Maison des Gourmets, a café and bakery with a French flavour, serves patisserie and delicatessen treats. Butler's Irish Chocolate tempts with gift boxes of exquisite handmade chocolates. For those craving freshly caught Irish salmon, Sawer's Fishmongers on Chatham Street is a good bet. Dublin's growing multiculturalism has led to the proliferation of an impressive range of ethnic food stores in the city.



Sheridan's Cheesemongers' tempting display

#### **FASHION**

Although there are many elegant boutiques in Dublin, the most fashionable among them are clustered close to Dublin's "Fifth Avenue" – the smart Grafton Street area. **Costume**, with its wide range of Irish and international designer labels, is a popular destination for women's *baute couture*. Shoe aficionados will find that **Le Cherche Midi** stocks some very enticing ladies' footwear.

Bargain hunters should head for the Temple Bar Old City fashion market, where many outlets sell uniquely Irish designs at reduced prices.

For classic menswear, Louis Copeland is Dublin's most famous tailor, with branches on both sides of the city. For traditional clothing, stop at the Kilkenny Shop (see p105) or Kevin & Howlin. Both stock tweeds, Arans and other typically Irish clothing.

### BOOKS

Given its rich literary heritage, it is not surprising that there are a number of specialist and interesting bookstores peppering Dublin's streets. The Winding Stair, with its own café, is a popular shop. Books Upstairs, next to Trinity College, has a good selection of Irish titles. Antiquarian bookseller, Cathach Books, is Dublin's specialist provider of old Irish titles. The shop stocks an impressive selection of first editions and rarities.

Shoppers looking to buy, sell or exchange used books should make their way to **Chapters**, which has one of the largest second-hand sections in the city.

#### MUSIC

The most concentrated area for record shops is in Temple Bar, where small stores stock everything from obscure electronica to indie and reggae.

City Discs caters to independent rock and metal tastes, with both new and second-hand music. Fans of such music also converge at Borderline Records and Purple Moon nearby. For the best techno, R&B and

house on vinyl and CD, pay a visit to Big Brother Records or Selectah Records just above it. Alternative titles and a wide variety of second-hand records can also be found at Freebird Records, a long established music retailer on Eden Quay.

Most record shops in Dublin stock traditional Irish music, but **Celtic Note** on Nassau Street has one of the largest selections. The staff will gladly make recommendations.

McCullough Piggot on the South side, and Waltons on the North are best for sheet music and traditional Irish instruments including uillean pipes and bodbráns.

## **ANTIQUES**

One of Dublin's oldest antique retailers, Oman Antique Galleries specializes in quality Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian furniture. Clifford Antiques offers both original and reproduction antique furniture, as well as decorative fireplaces. Its collection of bronze fountains and figures is unrivalled in the city. The eclectic collection at Christy Bird includes an array of salvaged and recycled furniture and pub fittings.

The Powerscourt Centre is also home to many antique dealers. Of these, **Delphi** is a specialist in Victorian and Edwardian period jewellery, and also stocks beautifully fragile Belleek porcelain antiques. **Windsor Antiques** is the best for antique watches, cuff links, brooches, diamond rings and other jewellery. For silver antiques, including Irish and English portrait miniatures from the 18th to the 20th century, visit **The Silver Shop**.

For antique maps and prints, the Grafton Street area is a good hunting ground with the Neptune Gallery and Antique Prints nearby.

Located in one the oldest areas of the city and near the historical Coombe, Francis Street offers a mish-mash of antique stores. Old clocks, second-hand furniture and loads of bric-à-brac line the streets, inviting visitors into shops that are almost antiques themselves.

Outside the city centre, **Beaufield Mews** specializes
in porcelain and early 20thcentury pictures, while **Q Antiques** in Dun Laoghaide

of period lighting and furniture.

Those who wish to further explore vintage Irish treasures should consult the website and local listings for the Antiques Fairs that are held in the city at different times and locations throughout the year.

#### GALLERIES

The abundance of galleries and artists' workshops in Dublin make it a favourite destination of art lovers and collectors. Many galleries are located on Dawson Street, which runs parallel to Grafton Street. The prestigious Apollo Gallery flaunts a trendy pop sensibility and exhibits works by many of Ireland's best-known artists.

On Westland Row, the Oisín Gallery sells the work of some of Ireland's best young artists in its split-level exhibition space. Visitors may also visit Whyte's Auction Rooms to bid on international and Irish art. The catalogues are published online and can be consulted for those seriously interested in investigating Irish painting.

On Sundays, an outdoor art market is held at Merrion Square close to the museum quarter. Works of vastly varying quality are hung from the square's perimeter black railing, and in good weather, the colourful, impromptu exhibition makes for very enjoyable browsing.

The Temple Bar area is also home to many of the city's galleries, including the Temple Bar Gallery and Studios. It is one of the more modish, cutting-edge venues, housing the eclectic work of more than 30 Irish artists working in several mediums. Nearby, in the heart of Dublin's Left Bank, is the Original Print Gallery and the Gallery of Photography, which stocks an impressive collection of glossy art books. Despite its association with partying and drunken misconduct, the area is still deserving of its "cultural quarter" status.

## DIRECTORY

### DEPARTMENT **STORES**

## Arnott's

12 Henry St. Map D2. Tel 01 872 1111.

**Brown Thomas** 

88-95 Grafton St. Map D4. Tel 01 605 6666.

Clery's

18-27 Lower O'Connell St. Map D2.

Tel 01 878 6000

**Roches Stores** 

54-62 Henry St. Map D2 Tel 01 873 0044.

#### SHOPPING CENTRES

**Jervis Centre** 

125 Upper Abbey St. Map C2 Tel 01 878 1323.

**Powerscourt Centre** 

59 South William. Map D4.

Tel 01 671 7000

#### Stephen's Green Centre

St Stephen's Green West. Map D4. Tel 01 478 0888

### **MARKETS**

George's Street **Market Arcade** 

George's St. Map C4.

**Temple Bar Food** Market

Meeting House Sq, Temple Bar. Map D3.

## SOUVENIRS AND GIFTS

### Carroll's Irish Gift Stores

57 Upper O'Connell St. Map A3 Tel 01 453 8364

Guinness Storehouse

St. James's Gate. Map A3. Tel 01 453 8364.

**Heraldic Artists** 

3 Nassau St. Map A3. Tel 01 679 7020.

## Kilkenny Shop

6-10 Nassau Street. Map E4. Tel 01 677 7066.

#### Knobs and Knockers

19 Nassau St. Map A3. Tel 01 453 8364

## **FOOD AND WINE**

## **Butler's Irish**

Chocolate 24 Wicklow St. Map D4. Tel 01 6710591.

Cabot & Co.

Valentia House, Custom House Sq. IFSC. Map F2. Tel 01 636 0616.

## Celtic Whiskey Shop

27-28 Dawson St. Map D4. Tel 01 675 9744.

#### Claudio's

29 George's Street Arcade, Drury St. Map D4. Tel 01 671 5917.

## La Maison des Gourmets

15 Castle St. Map D4. Tel 01 672 7258.

## Sawer's **Fishmongers**

3 Chatham St. Map D4. Tel 01 677 7643.

## Sheridan's

Cheesemongers 11 South Anne St. Map D4.

## Tel 01 679 3143. **FASHION**

## Costume

10 Castle Market. Map D4. Tel 01 679 4188.

Le Cherche Midi

## 23 Drury St. Map D4. Tel 01 675 3974

**Louis Copeland** 

39-41 Capel St. Map C2. Tel 01 872 1600.

### **Kevin & Howlin**

31 Nassau St. Map E4. Tel 01 677 0252.

#### BOOKS

## **Books Upstairs**

36 College Green. Map D3 Tel 01 679 6687.

## **Cathach Books**

10 Duke St. Map D4. Tel 01 671 8676.

### Chapters

108/109 Middle Abbey St. Map D2. Tel 01 873 0484.

## The Winding Stair

40 Ormond Quay Lower. Map C3. Tel 01 873 3292.

#### MUSIC

**Big Brother Records** 

4 Crow St, Temple Bar. Map C3. Tel 01 672 9355.

## **Borderline Records**

17 Temple Bar, Map C3. Tel 01 679 9097

## Celtic Note

14/15 Nassau St. Map E4. Tel 01 670 4157.

## City Discs

Curved St, Temple Bar. Map C3. Tel 01 633 0066

## **Freebird Records**

1 Eden Quay. Map D2. Tel 01 873 1250.

#### **McCullough Piggot** 25 Suffolk St.

Map D3. Tel 01 671 2410.

## **Purple Moon**

7 Crow St. Temple Bar. Tel 01 677 7349.

#### Selectah Records

4 Crow St, Temple Bar. Map C3. Tel 01 616 7020.

#### Waltons

2-5 North Frederick St. Map D1. Tel 01 874 7805.

#### **ANTIQUES**

**Antiques Fairs** www.antiquefairsireland.

## **Antique Prints**

16 South Anne St. Map D4. Tel 01 671 9523.

## **Beaufield Mews**

Woodlands Ave, Stillorgan, Co Dublin. Road map D4. Tel 01 2880375.

## **Christy Bird**

32 S Richmond St. Tel 01 475 4049.

## **Clifford Antiques**

7/8 Parnell St. Map D1. Tel 01 872 6062.

#### Delphi

Powerscourt Centre. Map D4. Tel 01 679 0331.

## **Neptune Gallery**

41 S William's, Map D4. Tel 01 671 5021.

## **Oman Antique** Galleries

20/21 S William St. Map D4. Tel 01 616 8991.

## **O** Antiques

76 York Rd. Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin. Road map D4. Tel 01 280 2895.

## The Silver Shop

Powerscourt Centre. Map D4. Tel 01 679 4147.

## **Windsor Antiques**

23D Powerscourt Centre. Map D4. Tel 01 670 3001.

## GALLERIES

## **Apollo Gallery**

15-18 W Essex St. Temple Bar. Map C3. Tel 01 671 2609.

## Gallery of **Photography**

Meeting House Sq. Temple Bar. Map C3. Tel 01 671 4654.

## Oisín Gallery

44 Westland Row. Map F3. Tel 01 661 0464.

## **Original Print** Gallery

4 Temple Bar. Map D3. Tel 01 677 3657.

#### **Temple Bar Gallery** and Studios

5-9 Temple Bar. Map D3.

## Tel 01 671 0073.

## Whyte's Auction Rooms 30 Marlborough St.

Map D1. Tel 01 874 6161. www.whytes.ie

## ENTERTAINMENT IN DUBLIN

lthough Dublin is well served by theatres, cinemas, nightclubs and rock venues, what sets the city apart from other European capitals is its pubs. Lively banter, impromptu music sessions and great Guinness are the essential ingredients for an enjoyable night in any of the dozens of atmospheric hostelries here.

One of the most popular entertainment districts is the rejuvenated Temple Bar area. Along this narrow network of cobbled streets, you can find everything



Olympia Theatre façade

post-industrial setting. The many pubs and venues around this area make the city centre south of the Liffey the place to be at night. The north side does, however, boast the two most illustrious theatres, the largest cinemas and the 7.000-seater Point Theatre. a converted 19th-century rail

terminal beside the docks. It is now the venue for all major rock concerts and stage musicals, as well as a number of classical music performances.



**Buskers playing near Grafton Street in southeast Dublin** 

## **ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS**

Listings for clubs, cinemas, theatre and other entertainment can be found in most newspapers, such as the Irish Times and the Tribune, particularly on weekends. Hot Press, a national bimonthly newspaper covering both rock and traditional music, has comprehensive listings for Dublin. The Event Guide and In Dublin are free sheets available at pubs, cafés, restaurants and record shops. They are published fortnightly and are particularly strong on music and nightclubs.

#### **BOOKING TICKETS**

Tickets for many events are available on the night, but it is usually safer to book in advance. All the major venues take credit card payment over the telephone. Ticketmaster accepts phone bookings by credit card only for many of

the major shows and events in and around Dublin, while **HMV** and **Dublin Tourism** (Suffolk Street) sell tickets for most of the top theatres and major rock gigs.

#### THEATRE

Although Dublin only has a limited number of theatres. there is almost always something worth seeing. Most theatres are closed on Sunday. Ireland's national theatre, the Abbey (see p88), is the most popular venue, concentrating on major new productions as well as revivals of works by Irish playwrights such as Brendan Behan, Sean O'Casey, JM Synge and WB Yeats. The smaller Peacock Theatre downstairs features experimental works. Also on the north side is the Gate Theatre (see p90), founded in 1929 as a rival to the Abbey, and noted for its interpretations of wellknown international plays.

The main venue south of the Liffey, the Gaiety Theatre. stages a mainstream mix of plays, emphasizing the work of Irish playwrights. Some of the best fringe theatre and modern dance in Dublin can be seen at the Project Arts Centre in Temple Bar and the City Arts Centre, which sometimes holds midnight performances. Andrew's Lane Theatre provides a forum for new writers and directors. The Olympia Theatre has the feel of a Victorian music hall. It specializes in comedy and popular drama, and occasionally stages rock and Irish music concerts.

Every October, the Dublin Theatre Festival takes over all the city venues with mainstream, fringe and international plays.



Record shop and ticket office in Crown Alley, Temple Bar



Crowds enjoying the Temple Bar Blues Festival

#### **CINEMA**

The city's cinemas had a boost in the 1990s with the success of Dublin-based films such as My Left Foot (1989). Huge growth in the country's movie production industry followed, and hits like Dancing at

Lughnasa (1998) and Intermission (2004) keep Ireland in the spotlight.

The **Irish Film**Institute opened its doors in 1992 and is a most welcome addition to the city's entertainment scene. Showcasing mostly foreign and independent films, along with a programme of lectures, it boasts two screens, as well as a

lectures, it boasts two screens, as well as a bar and restaurant. **Screen**, close to Trinity College, has a repertoire of art house films.

The large first-run cinemas are all located on the north side. They usually offer tickets at reduced prices for afternoon screenings, and show late-night films on the weekend. The summerlong **Diversions** festival in Temple Bar includes openair screenings, mainly in Meeting House Square. Tickets are available from Temple Bar Properties.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC, OPERA AND DANCE

Dublin may not have the range of classical concerts of other European capitals, but it has a great venue in the **National Concert Hall**. In the 1980s,

this 19th-century exhibition hall was redesigned, and is where the National Symphony Orchestra plays most Friday evenings. The programme also includes opera, jazz, chamber music, dance and some traditional music.

The Hugh Lane Municipal
Gallery of Modern

Art (see p91) has regular Sunday lunch-time concerts. Other venues include the Royal Hospital Kilmainham (see p97), Bank of Ireland Arts Centre and the Royal Dublin Society (RDS). International opera is staged in the Point



The listings magazine
In Dublin

**Theatre**. The Dublin Grand Opera Society performs every April and November at the Gaiety Theatre.

## ROCK, JAZZ, BLUES AND COUNTRY

Dublin has had a thriving rock scene ever since local band Thin Lizzy made it big in

the early 1970s. U2's success acted as a further catalyst for local bands, and each night there's usually an interesting gig somewhere in the city. Whelan's is probably the most popular live venue. Since 1989,

many famous names have performed on its stage. Temple Bar venue, **The Mezz**, hosts live music most nights of the week. Set on two floors, this place is always packed with students. Get there early if you want to find a good seat by the stage.

Eamonn Doran's in Temple Bar is another favourite for rock fans (and pizza lovers). Located in the same building is Di Fontaine's pizzeria, partly owned by Huey Morgan of the rock group, Fun Lovin' Criminals. Eamonn Doran's is a suitably grungy environment for visitors looking for an authentic Dublin rock experience. Also partly owned by the Fun Lovin' Criminals' frontman is The Voodoo Lounge. This dark venue's live performances are fast gaining a reputation among rock fans.

The upstairs room at the likeable International Bar caters mostly to acoustic acts and singer-songwriters, while the Ha'penny Bridge Inn has folk and blues on Friday and Saturday nights.

Big names play at either the **Point Theatre** or, in summer, at the local sports stadia. The **Olympia**, a Victorian theatre, hosts memorable concerts in extraordinary surroundings. Outside Dublin, **Slane Castle** hosts a big rock event every summer (see p245).

The Temple Bar Music Centre and The Sugar Club offer jazz, salsa, Latin and blues all year, with the Heineken Green Energy Festival, a highlight in May. Country music is popular in Ireland, and plays at several Dublin pubs. Check entertainment listings for details.



Live rock band performing at the Sugar Club

## TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE

To many Irish people, the standard of music in a pub is just as important as the quality of the Guinness, Central Dublin has a host of pubs reverberating to the sound of bodbráns, fiddles and uilleann pipes. One of the most famous is O'Donoghue's, where the legendary Dubliners started out in the early 1960s. The Cobblestone and the Auld **Dubliner** are also renowned venues. Established acts play at venues such as Mother Redcap's Tavern, which is a fun place occupying an old factory. Jury's Hotel and the Castle Inn stage Irish cabaret (May-October) featuring dancing, singing and music.

#### **PUBS AND BARS**

Dublin's pubs are a slice of living history. These are the places where some of the best-known scenes in Irish literature have been set. where rebellious politicians have met, and where worldfamous music acts have made their debuts. Today, it's the singing, dancing, talk and laughter that make a pub tour of Dublin an absolute must.

There are nearly 1,000 pubs inside the city limits. Among the best of the traditional bars are Neary's, popular with actors and featuring a gorgeous marble bar, the atmospheric Long Hall, and the friendly and chic Stag's Head dating from 1770.

Cosy snugs, where drinkers could lock themselves away

for private conversation, were an important feature of 19thcentury bars. A few remain, notably at the tiny, journalists' haunt of Doheny & Nesbitt and intimate Kehoe's.

The Brazen Head claims to be the city's oldest pub. dating back to 1198. The present pub, built in the 1750s, is lined with old photographs and dark wood panelling, and showcases traditional music sessions nightly. Every pub prides itself on the quality of its Guinness, though most locals acknowledge that Mulligan's, founded in 1782, serves the best pint in the city.

The Grave Diggers is situated on the northern outskirts of the city in Phibsborough. Located next to a gravevard. this bar has more character than most. and it's worth the taxi ride just to see what a Dublin bar would have looked like hundreds of years ago. On summer week-A Guinness advertisement ends, the green outside fills with

lazy drinkers enjoying pints and swapping stories.

Grogan's bar, on William Street, is frequented by many of Dublin's bohemian characters. Part bar, part art gallery, it exhibits an array of paintings by local artists.

Café en Seine is influenced by a belle époque Parisian bar. Its interior is huge and cavernous, and the decor rich and alluring. At weekends, this bar heaves with Dublin's

movers and shakers. Situated next door is Ron Black's, one of Dublin's more style-conscious bars, usually frequented by members of the film industry. Lofty ceilings, dark panelled walls and off-white furnishings set the mood for relaxed networking or enjoyable people-watching.

Grand Central is one of the very few bars on the city's main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street. Housed in a former bank, many of the original features have been retained.

Rush, a small chic bar, has a strictly pop-music policy and is populated by a trendy young crowd. The Welcome Inn is a journey back to the 1970s; low formica tables and vinvl stools complement the antiquated

> wallpaper. The young crowd can be rambunctious, depending on who has programmed

> > the jukebox.

Dice Bar is a pseudo-dive bar with a dark interior of clashing blacks and reds. The music policy is a combination of

rare rock 'n' roll and blues records.

at a Dublin pub

Urban and cosmopolitan, The Globe is as popular during the day for coffee as it is at night. The crowd is a cool mix of musicians and city hipsters. Not unlike the Globe, but with a modern twist, 4 Dame Lane is a slickly designed bar. At night it fills with a young crowd that loves the eclectic music. Two flaming torches mark the entrance. Part of the sleek Morgan

Hotel in Temple Bar, the beautifully designed Morgan Bar prides itself on serving outstanding cocktails. The Market Bar, a relative newcomer to the scene, is fast becoming one of the city's favourite gastro-pubs. Set in an old factory, high ceilings and red-brick walls lend this place a certain retroindustrial charm. Superb food is served throughout the day.

Small, comfy Peter's Pub has a reputation for quality pints and is considered by many to be the quintessential Dublin boozer.



A traditional Irish music session in O'Donoghue's



Traditional façade of Doheny & Nesbitt

#### A LITERARY PUB CRAWL

Pubs with strong literary associations abound in Dublin, particularly around Grafton Street. McDaid's, an old pub with an Art Deco interior, still retains some of its bohemian air from the time when writers such as Patrick Kavanagh and Brendan Behan were regulars.

Davy Byrne's has a plusher decor than it did when Leopold Bloom dropped in for a gorgonzola and mustard sandwich in Ulysses, but it is still well worth paying a visit. These pubs, and others frequented by Ireland's most famous authors and playwrights, are featured on the excellent Dublin Literary Pub Crawl. The two-and-a-halfhour tours, which are led by actors, start with a beer in The Duke, and are by far the most entertaining way to get a real feel for the city's boozefuelled literary heritage. Tours take place daily in summer, but are usually held only at weekends in winter.

#### **NIGHTCLUBS**

Dublin's clubs are continually revamping and relaunching, and variety remains the key in clubland, with plenty of massive superclubs and more intimate, laidback venues. The scene is somewhat curtailed, however, by the city's licensing laws. A nightclub licence allows a club to remain open until 2:30am – early by many major cities' standards. So Dublin clubbers start their night early, often beginning at a pub.

The **POD** complex houses four spaces, providing some of Dublin's most diverse offerings. Crawdaddy features live acts ranging from local hip-hop groups to international reggae stars. Next door is the ultra trendy Lobby Bar, featuring soul music and avant-garde design. Next to it is the original POD, where a trendy mix of cutting-edge sounds and attractive clubbers combine to produce an exclusive atmosphere. Upstairs, Red Box is the largest space and attracts a younger crowd; the music policy is varied and depends upon the night.

Club M is another multi-level nightclub with an impressive light and sound system. It attracts dedicated club aficionados and weekend revellers.

Spirit is a unique clubbing experience. Like its sister club in New York, this club is divided into three areas - Mind, Body and Soul. Spirit also houses a therapy centre where iaded clubbers can relax with holistic treatments such as reiki and Indian head massage. A nightly show features dancing and other performances. Cocktails and glamour abound at luxurious Traffic, which also has a New York sister. Located next door to Spirit, it attracts house music fans. Dress to impress as these clubbers are always wearing their best.

For those looking for laidback sophistication, **Joy's** is technically a wine bar and has a licence to stay open late.

**Viperoom**, named after the famous Hollywood club, usually has a pianist to

provide an intimate soundtrack. For those with more energy to burn, a dance floor is located in the basement.

Located in a magnificently restored Georgian town house, Spy is one of the most comfortable nightclubs in town. The door policy is strict at this popular spot, so arriving early and dressing up are essential if you want to dance to cutting-edge music or sink into a dangerously comfortable couch.

Zanzibar covers several floors and features exotic Moorish decor. At the weekend, the young clubbers crowd at the bar and dance to chart music. Isaac Butt's is a little more intimate, with varied live music and DJs seven nights a week. There's a youth hostel just around the corner and entry is free, so this club tends to be popular with backpackers.

Ri-Ra, Irish for uproar, is at the cutting edge of R&B and dance music, and is one of Dublin's longest running nightclubs. An annexe to the ever popular Globe, Ri-Ra is packed with serious night owls, intent on dancing and having a ball, every night of the week.

Play at the Gaiety opens its doors after Friday and Saturday night theatre performances. Live bands play Latin, reggae, jazz, soul or salsa. The Boom Boom Room promotes the kind of music that is often overlooked by regular clubs – live jazz, electronica and avantgarde. Full of young, restless bohemians and musical connoisseurs, the Boom Boom Room is a style-shaping force in the city's club scene.

Touted as Dublin's most prestigious night club, Lillie's Bordello has a luxurious, decadent atmosphere. The legendary VIP room has long been a favourite of Dublin's rich and famous, and regulars often rub shoulders with the entertainment elite.

The PLU Bar is another exclusive haunt where many media types hang out. The club is a warren of VIP rooms and boasts Bono as a lifetime member (he occasionally drops by with the rest of U2 in tow). Renards, the not-so-VIP section, usually plays chart music, but hosts live jazz on Sundays.

## DIRECTORY

### **BOOKING AGENTS**

#### **Dublin Tourism**

Tourism Centre, Suffolk St, Dublin 2. **Tel** 01 605 7700.

#### HMV

18 Henry St. Map D2.

65 Grafton St.

Map D4.

www.hmv.co.uk

## Ticketmaster

**Tel** 1890 925 100. www.ticketmaster.ie

### THEATRE

## Abbey Theatre

Abbey St Lower.

Map E2.

Tel 01 878 7222.

www.abbeytheatre.ie

## Andrew's Lane Theatre

9–11 St Andrew's Lane. **Map** D3. **Tel** 01 679 5720. **www**.andrewslane.com

## City Arts Centre 23–25 Moss St.

Map E2.

Tel 01 677 0643.

www.cityartscentre.ie

## Dublin Theatre Festival 44 Essex St East.

**Map** C3. **Tel** 01 677 8439.

dublintheatrefestival.com

#### **Focus Theatre**

6 Pembroke Place. **Map** E5. **Tel** 01 676 3071.

## Gaiety

## Theatre

King St South. **Map** D4. **Tel** 01 677 1717.

www.gaietytheatre.com

## Gate Theatre Cavendish Row.

**Map** D1. **Tel** 01 874 4045.

www.gate-theatre.ie

## Olympia Theatre

Dame St. **Map** C3. **Tel** 01 677 1020.

## **Project Art Centre**

39 East Essex St.

Map C3. Tel 01 881 9613. www.project.ie

#### **CINEMA**

## **Diversions**Meeting House Sq.

Map C3. *Tel* 01 671 5717. www.templebar.ie

#### Irish Film Institute

6 Eustace St, Temple Bar. **Map** C3.

**Tel** 01 679 5744. www.fii.ie

#### Screen

D'Olier St. **Map** D3. **Tel** 01 672 5500.

## **UGC Cinemas**

Parnell St.

Map C2.

Tel 01 872 8444.

www.ugc.ie

## CLASSICAL MUSIC, OPERA AND DANCE

## Bank of Ireland Arts Centre

Bank of Ireland Arts Centre, Foster Place, College Green.

Map D3.

Tel 01 671 1488.

www.bankofireland.ie

## Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art

## Charlemont House, Parnell Sq North.

Map C1. *Tel* 01 222 5550. www.hughlane.ie

## National Concert

Earlsfort Terrace. Map D5. Tel 01 475 0077.

www.nch.ie

## **Point Theatre**

East Link Bridge, North Wall Quay.

Map D1. Tel 01 836 3633. www.thepoint.ie

Royal Dublin

# Society (RDS) Ballsbridge.

**Tel** 01 668 0866. www.rds.ie

## Royal Hospital Kilmainham Military Lane,

Kilmainham, Dublin 18.

Tel 01 612 9900.

www.modernart.ie

## ROCK, JAZZ, BLUES AND COUNTRY

## **Eamonn Doran's**

Crown Alley, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. **Map** D3. **Tel** 01 6799114.

## Ha'penny Bridge Inn

Wellington Quay. **Map** C3. **Tel** 01 677 0616.

## International Bar

23 Wicklow St. **Map** D3. **Tel** 01 677 9250.

#### The Mezz

Eustace St, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. **Map** C3.

Tel 01 670 7655.

## Slane Castle Slane, Co Meath.

**Tel** 01 988 4400. **www**.slanecastle.ie

#### The Sugar Club

8 Lower Leeson St.

Map E5.

Tel 01 678 7188.

www.thesugarclub.com

## Temple Bar Music Centre

Curved St, Temple Bar.

Map E4.

Tel 01 670 9202.

www.tbmc.ie

## The Voodoo Lounge

Arran Quay, Dublin 7. **Map** A3. **Tel** 01 8736013.

Whelan's

## 25 Wexford St.

Map E4 C5.

Tel 01 478 0766.

www.whelanslive

www.whelanslive.com

## TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE

### **Auld Dubliner**

Auld Dubliner, 24–25 Temple Bar. **Map** D3.

**Tel** 01 677 0527.

## Castle Inn

5–7 Lord Edward St. **Map** C3. **Tel** 01 475 1122.

## Cobblestone

77 King St North. **Map** A2. **Tel** 01 872 1799.

## Jury's Hotel

Pembroke Rd, Ballsbridge.

Tel 01 660 5000.

www.jurys-dublinhotels.com

Open May-Oct.

## Mother Redcap's Tavern

Back Lane, Christchurch. **Map** B4. **Tel** 01 453 8306.

## O'Donoghue's

15 Merrion Row. **Map** E5. **Tel** 01 676 2807. **www**.odonoghues.ie

## DIRECTORY

#### PURS AND BARS

## 4 Dame Lane

4 Dame Lane.

Dublin 2.

Мар СЗ.

Tel 01 679 0291.

## **Brazen Head**

20 Bridge St Lower.

Map A3.

Tel 01 679 5186.

www.brazenhead.com

## Café en Seine

40 Dawson St.

Dublin 2.

Map D4.

Tel 01 677 4369.

www.capitalbars.com

## Davy Byrne's

21 Duke St.

Map D4

Tel 01 677 5217. www.davybyrnespub.com

Dice Bar

79 Queen St. Dublin 7

Map A2

Tel 01 872 8622.

## **Doheny & Nesbitt**

5 Lower Baggot St.

Map E5

Tel 01 676 2945

www.dohenyandnesbitt.

#### **Dublin Literary Pub Crawl**

37 Exchequer St.

Map D3

Tel 01 670 5602.

www.dublinpubcrawl.

com

## The Duke

9 Duke St.

Map D4.

Tel 01 679 9553.

#### The Globe

11 S Great George's St,

Dublin 2.

Map C4.

Tel 01 671 1220.

www.globe.ie

## Grand Central

Abbey St / O'Connell St. Dublin 1.

Map D2.

Tel 01 872 8662.

## The Grave Diggers

Prospect Sq, Glasnevin,

Dublin 9.

Map D1.

### Grogan's

15 S William St. Dublin 2

Map D4.

Tel 01 677 9320.

#### Kehoe's

9 S Anne St.

Map D4.

Tel 01 677 8312.

### Long Hall

51 S Great George's St.

Map C4. Tel 01 475 1590.

## The Market Bar

14a Fade St

Dublin 2. Map D4.

Tel 01 613 9094.

www.pod.ie

#### McDaid's

3 Harry St. off Grafton St.

Map D4

Tel 01 679 4395.

## The Morgan Bar

The Morgan Hotel, 10 Fleet St.

Dublin 2.

Map D3.

Tel 01 679 3939.

www.themorgan.com

#### Mulligan's

8 Poolbea St.

Man F3

Tel 01 677 5582.

www.mulligans.ie

## Neary's

1 Chatham St. Map D4.

Tel 01 677 8596.

## Peter's Pub

Johnson's Place. Dublin 2

Map D4.

Tel 01 677 8588.

## Ron Black's

38 Dawson St,

Dublin 2.

Map D4.

Tel 01 670 3702.

## Rush

65 S William St. Dublin 2.

Man D4

Tel 01 671 9542.

## Stag's Head

1 Dame Court, off Dame Lane.

Map D3.

Tel 01 679 3701.

### The Welcome Inn

13 Parnell St

Dublin 1. Map D1.

Tel 01 874 3227.

## **NIGHTCLUBS**

## The Boom Boom Room

70 Parnell St. above Patrick Conway's,

Dublin 7.

Map D1. www. theboomboomroom.tv

#### Club M

Blooms Hotel. Temple Bar.

Map D3.

Tel 01 6715622.

www.clubm.ie

## Crawdaddy

Harcourt St. Map D5.

Tel 01 4780225.

www.crawdaddy.ie

## Isaac Butt's

Store St, Dublin 1. Map E2.

Tel 01 855 5021.

www.theisaacbutt.com

#### Jov's

Baggot St, Dublin 2.

Map F5.

Tel 01 676 6729.

## Lillie's Bordello

Adam Court off Grafton St.

Map F4 D4 Tel 01 679 9204.

www.lilliesbordello.ie

## Play at the Gaiety

S King St. Dublin 2. Map D4.

Tel 01 677 1717.

www.gaietytheatre.com

## **PLU Bar, Renards**

S Frederick St, Dublin 2. Tel 01 677 5876.

www.renards.ie

## POD, Lobby Bar, **Red Box**

Harcourt St. Map D5.

Tel 01 4780166.

www.pod.ie

Ri-Ra South Great George's St,

Dublin 2.

Map F3.

Tel 01 671 1220. www.rira.ie

#### Spirit

Abbey St, Dublin 1.

Map C2. Tel 01 877 9999.

## www.spiritdublin.com

Spy South William St.

Map D4.

Tel 01 677 0014. www.spydublin.com

#### Traffic

Abbey St, Dublin 1.

Map C2.

Tel 01 873 4800 www.traffic54.ne

## Viperoom

Aston Quay, Dublin 2. Map D3. Tel 01 672 5566.

## Zanzibar

Ormond Quay, Dublin 1. **Map** C3.

Tel 01 878 7212. www.capitalbars.com

## Dublin's Best: Entertainment

It's easy to pack a lot into a night out in Dublin. Most of the best nightspots are situated close to each other and, in the Temple Bar area alone, there are plenty of exciting haunts to try out. The city offers something to suit every taste and pocket: choose from world-class theatre, excellent concert venues, designer café-bars and lively or laid-back clubs hosting nights of traditional, country, jazz or rock music. Even when there is no specific event that appeals, you can simply enjoy Dublin's inexhaustible supply of great traditional pubs.



#### **Gate Theatre**

The Gate puts on both foreign plays and Irish classics such as Sean O'Casey's Juno and the Paycock. (See p90.)



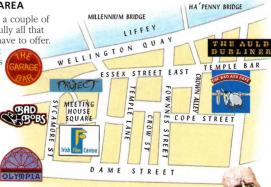
## Stag's Head

This gorgeous Victorian pub has a long, mahogany bar and has retained its original mirrors and stained glass. Located down an out-of-the-way alley, this atmospheric pub is well worth seeking out. (See p110.)



## THE TEMPLE BAR AREA

It will take more than a couple of evenings to explore fully all that these narrow streets have to offer. Many of Dublin's best mid-priced restaurants are here, while modern bars sit next to traditional pubs hosting fiddle sessions. There are also theatres and the Irish Film Centre. Later, clubs play music ranging from country to the latest dance sounds.





Queuing for a concert in Temple Bar

0 metres 100 0 yards 100

> Street theatre events take place throughout the summer in Temple Bar. This actor is portraying George Bernard Shaw in a typical street performance.



**Abbey Theatre** 

Despite recurring financial problems, Ireland's prestigious national theatre still manages to stage compelling new drama, such as Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel. (See p88.)



## **Point Theatre**

Once a Victorian railway terminus, this is now the country's top live music arena. Major acts, including Van Morrison (above) and Luciano Pavarotti, bave appeared here and it's also a popular venue for bit musicals. (See p109.)



## McDaid's

Playwright Brendan Behan (see p23) downed many a pint in this pub, which dates from 1779. Though firmly on the tourist trail, McDaid's retains its bohenian charm, and bars upstairs and downstairs provide space for a leisurely drink. (See p113.)





### **National Concert Hall**

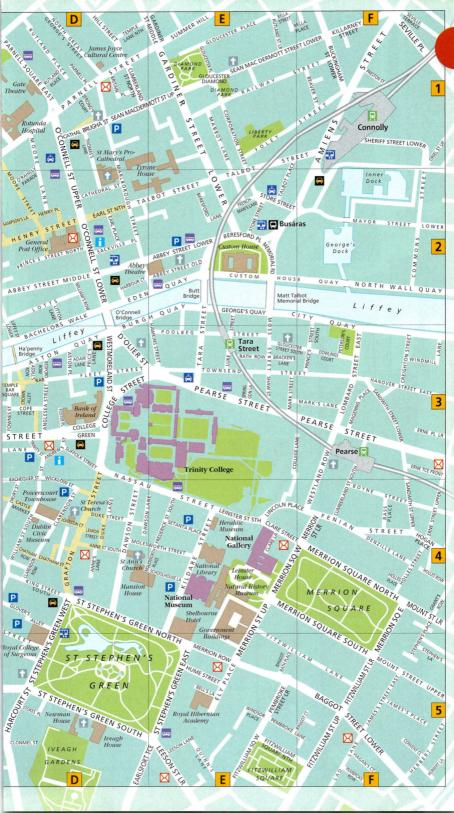
The National Symphony Orchestra performs most Friday evenings. A combination of dance, chamber music and other performance arts makes up a full programme of events. From May to July, inexpensive Tuesday lunch-time concerts are beld. (See p109.)

## Street Finder Index

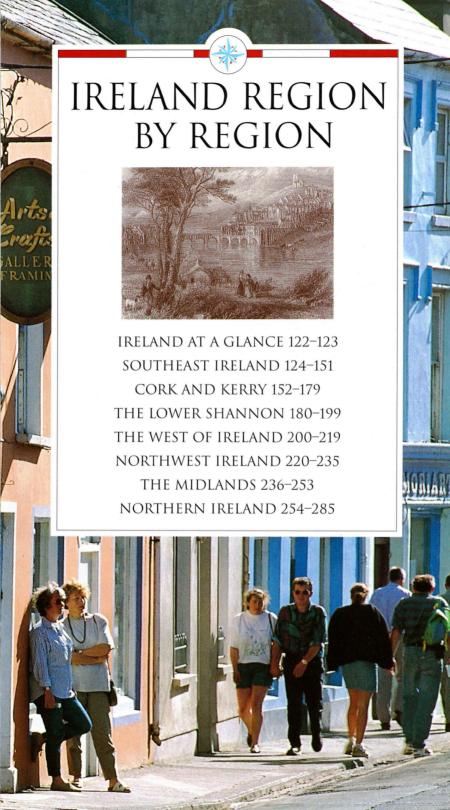
KEY	TO THE ST	REET	FINDER																				
Major sight Place of interest Railway station DART station				Coach station Taxi rank Main car park Tourist information office				Church Post office Railway line															
																Hospital with casualty unit				Pedestrian street			
												E Lu	uas stop										
												₩ M	lain bus stop			Police	station	1		0 metres		.00 <b>1:11,</b>	,500
KEY	TO STREET	FIND	ER ABBR	EVIATIONS				0 yards	200														
Ave	Avenue		E	East		Pde	Parade			South													
Br Cl	Bridge		La	Lane		Ρd	Place			Terrace													
Ct	Close Court		Lr Nth	Lower North		Rd St	Road Street/Sain	t		Jpper West													
on the Ye																							
			Bridge Stre	et New eet Lower	C5 A3		ution Hill nt Close	B1 F5	Eustace S	Street e Street Lower													
bey Stree	et Lower	D2	Bridge Str	eet Upper	A3	Cook S		B3		e Street Upper													
bey Stree bey Stree	et Middle et Old	D2 E2	Bridgefoo	t Street	A3		e Court	A4	Exchequ														
bbey Street Upper		C2	Britain Pla Brown Str	reet North	D1 A2	Copper S		D3 C3	F														
bbey Theatre		D2	Brown Street North Brown Street South		A5	Copper Alley Cork Hill		C3	Fade Stre	eet													
dair Lane delaide Hospital		D3 C4	Brunswick Street North Buckingham Street		A2	Cork Street Corporation Street		A5	Father M	athew Bridge													
iens Stre	eet	F1	Lower	am Street	F1	Crane I		E1 C3	Father M Fenian S	athew Square													
glesea Ro glesea St		C2 D3	Bull Alley	Street	B4	Creight	on Street	F3	Fishambl														
ne Street		B2	Burgh Quay		D3 E2	Crown Alley Cuckoo Lane		D3 B2	Fitzwilliam Lane														
nne Street South		D4	Busáras Butt Bridge		E2 E2	Cuckoo Lane Cuffe Street		C5	Fitzwilliam Square Fitzwilliam Square														
ne's Lane lee Row		D4	Byrne's La		C2	Cumbe	rland Street Nor	th D1	North	in square													
lee Stree	t	A5 A5	-			Cumber	rland Street Sou	th F4 E2		m Square													
an Quay		A3	C Camden F	llaca	C5		House Quay	E2	West Fitzwillia	m Street													
an Street dill's Row		B2 D3	Camden F		C5				Lower	III Street													
Street		A4	Camden S	treet Lower	C5	D		62	Fitzwillia	m Street													
on Place		D3	Capel Stre		C2 A4	Dame I		C3	Upper Fleet Stre	et													
on Quay ngier Pla		D3 C5	Castle Mai		D4	Dawson		D4	Foley Str														
ngier Stre		C5	Castle Step	ps	C3	Dawson		D4	Foster Pl														
			Castle Stre	eet igha Street	C3 D1	Dean S	wift Square	B4 B4	Four Cou														
chelors W	77allr	D3	Cathar Bit		B5	Denzille		F4	Fownes S														
ck Lane	vaik	B4	Cathedral	Street	D2	Diamor		E1	Francis S														
ggot Cou		F5	Cathedral Chamber	View Court	B5 A5	Digges D'Olier	Street Upper Street	C5 D3	Frenchm	Street South													
ggot Rath	et Lower	E5 F5	Chancery		C4	Domini	ck Lane	C1	Friary Av	enue													
l's Lane	c. Lowel	B2	Chancery	Place	В3		ck Place	C1 C1	Fumbally	Lane													
nk of Irel	and	D3	Chancery Chapel La		B3 C2		ck Street Lower ck Street Upper		G														
s Place iver Stree	et	F4 F1	Charles St	reet West	В3	Donore	Road	A5	Garden I														
dford Ro		D3	Chatham I		D4 D4		Street Upper gs Court	C1 F3	Garden o														
la Place la Street		F1		street irch Cathedral	D4 B3	Drury S	treet	D4	Remem	Street Lower													
l's Lane		E1 E5	Christchur	ch Place	B4	Dublin	Castle	C3		Street Middle													
burb Str		A2		venue West	B2	Dublin Dublin	Civic Museum Writers	D4	Gate The														
resford La		E2	Church La Church Str		C5 B3	Museu		C1		Post Office Keating Road													
resford Presford St		E2 B2	Church Str	reet New	A2	Dublini	a	B4	George's	Dock													
vley's Or	riental Café	D4		reet Upper	B2 B2	Duke L		D4 D4	George's	Hill													
hop Stree		C5	Church Te City Hall	пасе	B2 C3		ucci.	104	George's George's														
ckhall Pl		A2 A2	City Quay		F2	E			Glouceste	er Diamond													
ckhall St		A2	Clanbrassil Clare Lane	Street Lower	B5 E4	Earl Pla		D2	Glouceste	er Place													
ckpitts ton Stree	et .	B5 C1	Clare Stree		E4		eet North eet South	D2 A4	Glover's	er Street South Alley													
nham Str		A3	Clarence N	Mangan Road	A5	Earlsfor	t Terrace	D5	Golden L	ane													
ris Court		В3	Clarendon Clarendon		D4 D4	Eden Q	er Terrace	A5 D2	Grafton S Granby I														
w Lane E	ast	C4 A2	Clonmel S		D5	Ellis Qu		A3	Granby E														
ne Stree	t	F4	Coke Lane		A3	Ely Plac	e	E5	Granby F	tow													
bazon Re		A5	College G		B1 D3		ace Lower reet Upper	F3 F4	Grangego Grant's R	orman Upper													
bazon St		A4	College La		E3		errace Front	F3	Grant's R														
acken's Lane		E3 A4	College St		D3			C3	Gray Stre														
ithwaite	aithwaite Street ide Road		Commons Street			Essex Quay Essex Street East																	

		Long Lane	B5	Ormond Square	В3	Setanta Place	E4
H	r	Longford Street Great	C4	Ormond Street	A5	Seville Place	F1
Hagan's Court	F5	Longford Street Little	C4	Oscar Square	A5	Seville Terrace	F1
Halston Street	B2	Lord Edward Street	C3	Oxmantown Lane	A2	Shaw Street	E3
Hammond Lane	A3	Lotts	D2			Shelbourne Hotel	E4
Hammond Street	A5	Luke Street	E3	P		Sheriff Street Lower	F1
Hanbury Lane	A4	Lurgan Street	B2	Palmerston Place	B1	Ship Street Great	C4
Hanover Lane	B4			Parliament Street	C3	Ship Street Little	C4
Hanover Street	B4	NA.		Parnell Place	D1	Smithfield	A2
Hanover Street East	F3	M		Parnell Square East	D1	South Great	
Ha'penny Bridge	D3	Mabbot Lane	E1			George's Street	C4
Harbour Court	D2	Madden Road	A5	Parnell Square West	C1	Spring Garden Lane	E3
Harcourt Street	D5	Magennis Place	F3	Parnell Street	C2	Stable Lane	A3
Hawkins Street	E3	Malpas Street	B5	Patrick Street	B4		
Haymarket	A2	Mansion House	D4	Pearse Station	F3	Stanhope Street	A1
Hendrick Lane	A2	Mark Street	<b>E</b> 3	Pearse Street	E3	Stephen Street Lower	C4
Hendrick Street	A2	Mark's Alley West	B4	Pembroke Lane	E5	Stephen Street Upper	C4
Henrietta Lane	B1	Mark's Lane	F3	Pembroke Row	F5	Stephen's Lane	F5
Henrietta Place	B2	Marlborough Street	D1	Pembroke Street Lower	E5	Stephen's Place	F5
Henrietta Street	B1	Marshall Lane	A3	Peter Row	C4	Stirrup Lane	B2
		Marsh's Library	B4	Peter Street	C4	Stokes Place	D5
Henry Place	D2		C2	Peterson's Court	F3	Stoneybatter	A2
Henry Street	D2	Mary Street		Phibsborough Road	B1	Store Street	E2
Herbert Lane	F5	Mary Street Little	B2	Phoenix Street North	A3	Strand Street Great	C3
Herbert Street	F5	Mary's Lane	B2	Pimlico	A4	Strand Street Little	C3
Heytesbury Street	C5	Matt Talbot Memorial		Pleasants Street	C5	Strong's Court	D1
High Street	В3	Bridge	E2			Suffolk Street	D3
Hill Street	D1	May Lane	A2	Poolbeg Street	E3	Summerhill	E1
Hogan Place	F4	Mayor Street Lower	F2	Poole Street	A4		A5
Holles Place	F4	Meade's Terrace	F4	Powerscourt Townhouse	D4	Susan Terrace	A4
Holles Row	F4	Meath Hospital	B5	Prebend Street	B1	Swift's Alley	
Holles Street	F4	Meath Place	A4	Preston Street	F1	Swift's Row	C3
Hugh Lane Municipal	1	Meath Street	A4	Price's Lane	D3	Sycamore Street	C3
Gallery of Modern Art	C1	Meetinghouse Lane	C2	Prince's Street North	D2	_	
Hume Street	E5	Mellowes Bridge	A3	Prince's Street South	F3	T	
rume street	1.5	Memorial Road	E2			Tailors' Hall	B4
1		Mercer Street Upper	C5	0		Talbot Place	E2
1		Merchant's Quay	B3	Queen Street	A2	Talbot Street	D2
Inner Dock	F2			Quinn's Lane	E5	Tara Street	E3
Inns Quay	В3	Merrion Row	E5	Canal Canal		Tara Street Station	E3
Irish Whiskey Corner	A2	Merrion Square	F4	R		Temple Bar	C3
Island Street	A3	Merrion Square East	F5		E1		B1
Iveagh Gardens	D5	Merrion Square North	F4	Railway Street		Temple Cottages	
		Merrion Square South	E4	Rath Row	E3	Temple Lane North	D1
]		Merrion Square West	E4	Redmond's Hill	C5	Temple Lane South	C3
		Merrion Street Lower	F4	Reginald Street	A4	The Coombe	A4
James Joyce		Merrion Street Upper	E5	River Liffey	A3	Thomas Court	A4
Cultural Centre	D1	Michael's Terrace	A5	Ross Road	B4	Thomas Court Lane	A4
James's Place	F5	Mill Street	A5	Rotunda Hospital	D1	Thomas Davis	
James's Place East	F5	Millennium Bridge	C3	Royal Hibernian		Street South	B4
Jervis Lane Lower	C2	Molesworth Place	D4	Academy	E5	Thomas Street West	A4
Jervis Lane Upper	C2	Molesworth Street	D4	Rutland Place	D1	Thomas's Lane	D1
Jervis Street	C2	Montague Place	C5	Rutland Street Lower	E1	Townsend Street	E3
John Street North	A3		C5	Ryder's Row	C2	Trinity College	E3
John Street South	A5	Montague Street		nyder 5 non		Trinity Street	D3
John Dillon Street	B4	Moore Lane	D1	S		Trinky oucct	23
John's Lane East	В3	Moore Street	D2		-	11	
John's Lane West	A4	Morning Star Avenue	A1	Sackville Place	D2	U	
Johnson Court	D4	Moss Street	E2	St Andrew's Street	D3	Usher Street	A3
Johnson Court	DI	Mount Street Lower	F4	St Ann's Church	D4	Usher's Island	A3
V		Mount Street Upper	F5	St Audoen's Church	B3	Usher's Quay	A3
K		Mountjoy Street	C1	St Augustine Street	A3		
Kevin Street Lower	C5	Mountjoy Street Middle	B1	St Cathedral Lane East	A4	V	
Kevin Street Upper	B5			St Kevin's Avenue	B5		A4
Kildare Street	E4	N		St Mary's Abbey	C2	Vicar Street	A4
Killarney Street	F1		Pa	St Mary's Pro-Cathedral	D1	VA/	
King Street North	A2	Nassau Street	D3	St Mary's Terrace	C1	W	
King Street South	D4	National Gallery	E4	St Michael's Close	B3	Wards Hill	B5
King's Inns	B1	Natural History			B3	Watkins Buildings	A4
King's Inns Park	B1	Museum	E4	St Michael's Hill		Weaver's Square	A5
King's Inns Street	C1	National Library	E4	St Michan's Church	A2	Weaver's Street	A4
DUDY S HILLS SHEEL	A1	National Museum	E4	St Michan's Street	B2	Wellington Quay	C3
	Al	New Row South	B5	St Paul Street	A2	Werburgh Street	C4
Kirwan Street		New Street North	B2	St Patrick's Cathedral	B4		B1
Kirwan Street			B5	St Patrick's Close	B4	Western Way	
Kirwan Street				St Patrick's Park	B4	Westland Row	F4
Kirwan Street	F5	New Street South				Westmoreland Street	D3
Kirwan Street  L Lad Lane	F5 B4	New Street South Newman House	D5	St Stephen's Green	D5		
Kirwan Street  L Lad Lane Lamb Alley	B4	New Street South Newman House Newmarket	D5 A5	St Stephen's Green	D5	Wexford Street	C5
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane	B4 E5	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street	D5	St Stephen's Green St Stephen's	D5 E5	Whitefriar Place	C4
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower	B4 E5 E5	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great	D5 A5 B4	St Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East		Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street	
L Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House	B4 E5 E5 E4	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street	D5 A5 B4 D1	St Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's	E5	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street	C4
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great	D5 A5 B4	St Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North		Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church	C4
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South Lemon Street	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 D4	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street	D5 A5 B4 D1	St Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's	E5 D4	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street	C4 C4
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South Lemon Street Libberty Lane	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 D4 C5	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay	D5 A5 B4 D1	St Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green South	E5	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church	C4 C4 C4 D3
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South Lemon Street Liberty Lane Liberty Lane Liberty Park	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 D4 C5 E1	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay	D5 A5 B4 D1 F2	St Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green South St Stephen's	E5 D4 D5	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church Wicklow Street William Street South	C4 C4 C4 D3 D4
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South Lemon Street Liberty Lane Liberty Park Liberty Park	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 D4 C5 E1	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay  O'Carolan Road	D5 A5 B4 D1 F2	St Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green South St Stephen's Green West	E5 D4 D5	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church Wicklow Street William Street South William's Place South	C4 C4 C4 D3 D4 B5
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South Lemon Street Liberty Lane Liberty Lane Liberty Park	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 D4 C5 E1	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay  O O'Carolan Road O'Connell Bridge	D5 A5 B4 D1 F2 A5 D2	St Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green South St Stephen's Green West St Thomas Road	E5 D4 D5 D5 A5	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church Wicklow Street William Street South William's Place South William's Row	C4 C4 D3 D4 B5
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South Lemon Street Liberty Lane Liberty Park Liberty Park	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 D4 C5 E1	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay  O'Carolan Road	D5 A5 B4 D1 F2	St Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green South St Stephen's Green West	E5 D4 D5	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church Wicklow Street William Street South William's Place South William's Row Windmill Lane	C4 C4 D3 D4 B5 D2 F3
Lad Lane Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South Lemon Street Libberty Lane Libberty Park Liffey Street Lower Liffey Street Lower Liffey Street Upper Lincoln Place	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 D4 C5 E1 D2 C2 E4	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay  O'Carolan Road O'Connell Bridge O'Connell Street Lower	D5 A5 B4 D1 F2 A5 D2 D2	st Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green South St Stephen's Green West St Thomas Road St Werburgh's Church	E5 D4 D5 D5 A5 B4	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church Wicklow Street William Street South William's Row Windmill Lane Windsor Place	C4 C4 C4 D3 D4 B5 D2 F3 E5
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South Lemon Street Liberty Park Liffey Street Lower Liffey Street Upper Lincon Place Linconh Place Linconh Place	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 D4 C5 E1 D2 C2 E4 B1	New Street South Newman House Newmanket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay  O'Carolan Road O'Connell Bridge O'Connell Street Lower O'Connell Street Upper	D5 A5 B4 D1 F2 A5 D2 D2 D1	St Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green Nouth St Stephen's Green South St Stephen's Green West St Thomas Road St Werburgh's Church Sampson's Lane	E5 D4 D5 D5 A5 B4 D2	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church Wicklow Street William Street South William's Place South William's Row Windmill Lane	C4 C4 C4 D3 D4 B5 D2 F3 E5
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South Lemon Street Liberty Park Liffey Street Lower Liffey Street Lower Liffey Street Lower Liffey Street Lower Linenhall Parade Linenhall Brarde Linenhall Street	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 D4 C5 E1 D2 C2 E4 B1 B2	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay  O'Carolan Road O'Connell Bridge O'Connell Street Lower O'Connell Street Lower O'Connell Street Upper O'Coury Avenue	D5 A5 B4 D1 F2 A5 D2 D2 D1 A5	st stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green South St Stephen's Green West St Thomas Road St Werburgh's Church Sampson's Lane Sandwith Street Upper	D5 D5 A5 B4 D2 F4	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church Wicklow Street William Street South William's Row Windmill Lane Windsor Place	C4 C4 C4 D3 D4 B5 D2 F3 E5 B3
Lad Lane Lanb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South Lemon Street Liberty Lane Liberty Lane Liberty Lane Liffey Street Upper Lincoln Place Linenhall Parade Linenhall Street Linenhall Terrace	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 D4 C5 E1 D2 C2 E4 B1 B2 B1	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay  O'Carolan Road O'Connell Bridge O'Connell Street Lower O'Connell Street Upper O'Curry Avenue O'Curry Avenue	D5 A5 B4 D1 F2 A5 D2 D2 D1 A5 A5 A5	st Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green South St Stephen's Green West St Thomas Road St Werburgh's Church Sampson's Lane Sandwith Street Upper Sandwith Street Lower	D5 D5 A5 B4 D2 F4 F3	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church Wicklow Street William Street South William's Place South William's Place Windmill Lane Windsor Place Winetavern Street Wolfe Tone Park	C4 C4 D3 D4 B5 D2 F3 E5 B3 C2
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Fouse Leinster Street South Lemon Street Liberty Park Liffey Street Lower Liffey Street Upper Lincoln Place Linenhall Parade Linenhall Street Lisbum Street Lisbum Street	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 D4 C5 E1 D2 C2 E4 B1 B2 B1 B2	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay  O'Carolan Road O'Connell Bridge O'Connell Street Lower O'Connell Street Upper O'Curry Avenue O'Curry Road O'Donovan Rossa Bridge	D5 A5 B4 D1 F2 A5 D2 D2 D1 A5 A5 B3	st stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green South St Stephen's Green West St Thomas Road St Werburgh's Church Sampson's Lane Sandwith Street Upper Sandwith Street Lower Schoolhouse Lane	E5 D4 D5 D5 A5 B4 D2 F4 F3 E4	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church Wicklow Street William Street south William's Place South William's Place South William's Place Windsor Place Windsor Place Windsor Place Wine Tone Park Wolfe Tone Street	C4 C4 C4 D3 D4 B5 D2 F3 E5 B3 C2 C2
Lad Lane Land Saley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South Lemon Street Liberty Lane Liberty Park Liffey Street Lower Liffey Street Lower Liffey Street Upper Lincoln Place Linenhall Parade Linenhall Street Linenhall Terrace Lisburn Street Little Britain Street	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 C5 E1 D2 C2 E4 B1 B2 B1 B2 B2	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay  O'Connell Bridge O'Connell Street Lower O'Connell Street Lower O'Connell Street Upper O'Curry Avenue O'Curry Road O'Donovan Rossa Bridge Oliver Bond Street	D5 A5 B4 D1 F2 A5 D2 D2 D1 A5 A5 B3 A3	st Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green Nouth St Stephen's Green South St Stephen's Green West St Thomas Road St Werburgh's Church Sampson's Lane Sandwith Street Upper Sandwith Street Upper Schoolhouse Lane Schoolhouse Lane West	D5 D5 A5 B4 D2 F4 F3	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church Wicklow Street William's Place South William's Row Windmill Lane Windsor Place Winetavem Street Wolfe Tone Park Wolfe Tone Street Wofe Tone Street Wood Quay	C4 C4 C4 D3 D4 B5 D2 F3 E5 B3 C2 C2 B3
Lad Lane Lamb Alley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Flouse Leinster Street South Lemon Street Liberty Park Liffey Street Upper Lincoln Place Linenhall Street Linenhall Parade Linenhall Street Linenhall Street Linenhall Street Linenhall Street Little Britain Street Little Green Street Little Green Street	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 D4 C5 E1 D2 C2 E4 B1 B2 B2 B2	New Street South Newman House Newmanket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay  O'Carolan Road O'Connell Bridge O'Connell Street Lower O'Connell Street Upper O'Curry Avenue O'Curry Road O'Donovan Rossa Bridge Oliver Bond Street O'Rahilly Parade	D5 A5 B4 D1 F2 A5 D2 D2 D1 A5 A5 B3 A3 D2	St Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green South St Stephen's Green West St Thomas Road St Werburgh's Church Sampson's Lane Sandwith Street Upper Sandwith Street Lower Schoolhouse Lane Schoolhouse Lane West Sean MacDermott	E5 D4 D5 D5 A5 B4 D2 F4 F3 E4 B3	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church Wicklow Street William Street south William's Place South William's Place South William's Place Windsor Place Windsor Place Windsor Place Wine Tone Park Wolfe Tone Street	C4 C4 C4 D3 D4 B5 D2 F3 E5 B3 C2 C2
Lad Lane Land Saley Leeson Lane Leeson Street Lower Leinster House Leinster Street South Lemon Street Liberty Lane Liberty Park Liffey Street Lower Liffey Street Lower Liffey Street Upper Lincoln Place Linenhall Parade Linenhall Street Linenhall Terrace Lisburn Street Little Britain Street	B4 E5 E5 E4 E4 C5 E1 D2 C2 E4 B1 B2 B1 B2 B2	New Street South Newman House Newmarket Nicholas Street North Great George's Street North Wall Quay  O'Connell Bridge O'Connell Street Lower O'Connell Street Lower O'Connell Street Upper O'Curry Avenue O'Curry Road O'Donovan Rossa Bridge Oliver Bond Street	D5 A5 B4 D1 F2 A5 D2 D2 D1 A5 A5 B3 A3	st Stephen's Green St Stephen's Green East St Stephen's Green North St Stephen's Green Nouth St Stephen's Green South St Stephen's Green West St Thomas Road St Werburgh's Church Sampson's Lane Sandwith Street Upper Sandwith Street Upper Schoolhouse Lane Schoolhouse Lane West	E5 D4 D5 D5 A5 B4 D2 F4 F3 E4	Whitefriar Place Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church Wicklow Street William's Place South William's Row Windmill Lane Windsor Place Winetavem Street Wolfe Tone Park Wolfe Tone Street Wofe Tone Street Wood Quay	C4 C4 C4 D3 D4 B5 D2 F3 E5 B3 C2 C2 B3









## Ireland at a Glance

The lure of Ireland's much-vaunted Atlantic shores, from the wild coastline of Cork and Kerry to the remote peninsulas of the Northwest, is strong. However, to neglect the interior would be to miss out on Ireland's equally characteristic landscapes of lush valleys, dark peatlands and unruffled loughs. Most regions are rich in historic sights: from world-famous Neolithic sites in the Midlands to imposing Norman castles in the North and Palladian mansions in the Southeast.

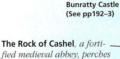






Connemara National Park in County Galway boasts stunning landscapes in which mountains and lakes are combined with a dramatic Atlantic coastline. The extensive blanket bogs and moorland are rich in wildlife and unusual plants. (See p208.)





on a limestone outcrop in the

boasts some of Ireland's finest

beart of County Tipperary. It

Romanesque sculpture. (See pp196–7.)



THE WEST

CORK AND KERRY See pp152–79)

> Bantry House (See pp168-9)



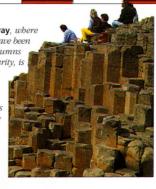
The Lakes of Killarney, flanked by the lush, wooded slopes of some of the country's highest mountains, are the principal attraction in the southwest of Ireland. (See pp162–3)



0 miles

25

The Giant's Causeway, where ancient lava flows have been eroded to reveal columns of unnatural regularity, is Northern Ireland's most curious sight. According to local mythology, the rocks were placed here by a giant called Finn MacCool to enable bim to walk across the sea to Scotland. (See pp262–3.)



Mount Stewart House, a 19th-century mansion, is most renowned for its magnificent gardens. These were created as recently as the 1920s, but a colourful array of exotic plants has thrived in the warm microclimate enjoyed in this part of County Down. (See pp282–3.)





Powerscourt is a large estate in superb countryside on the edge of the Wicklow Mountains. Its grounds rank among the last great formal gardens of Europe. Originally planted in the 1730s, they were restored and embellished in the 19th century. (See pp134–5.)



Kilkenny Castle was for centuries the stronghold of the Butler dynasty, which controlled much of southeast Ireland in the Middle Ages. The vast Norman fortress was remodelled during the Victorian period and still dominates Kilkenny – one of the country's most historic and pleasant towns. (See pp142–3.)



## SOUTHEAST IRELAND

KILDARE · WICKLOW · CARLOW · KILKENNY WATERFORD · WEXFORD

lessed with the warmest climate in Ireland, the Southeast has always presented an attractive prospect for settlers. Landscapes of gently rolling hills have been tamed by centuries of cultivation, with lush farmland, imposing medieval castles and great houses enhancing the region's atmosphere of prosperity.

The Southeast's proximity to Britain meant that it was often the first port of call for foreign invaders. Viking raiders arrived here in the 9th century and founded some of Ireland's earliest towns, including Waterford and Wexford. They

were followed in 1169 by the Anglo-Normans (see pp36-7), who shaped the region's subsequent development.

Given its strategic importance, the Southeast was heavily protected, mostly by Anglo-Norman lords loyal to the English Crown. Remains of impressive castles attest to the power of the Fitzgeralds of Kildare and the Butlers of Kilkenny, who between them virtually controlled the Southeast throughout the Middle Ages. English influence was stronger here than in

any other part of the island. From the 18th century, wealthy Anglo-Irish families were drawn to what they saw as a stable zone, and felt confident enough to build fine mansions like the Palladian masterpieces of Russborough and Castletown. English rule was not universally accepted, however.

The Wicklow Mountains became a popular refuge for opponents to the Crown, including the rebels who fled the town of Enniscorthy after a bloody battle during the uprising against the English in 1798 (see p41).

This mountainous region is still the only real wilderness in the Southeast, in contrast to the flat grasslands that spread across Kildare to the west. To the east, sandy beaches stretch almost unbroken along the shore between Dublin and Rosslare in Wexford



Traditional thatched cottages in Dunmore East, County Waterford

Athlo

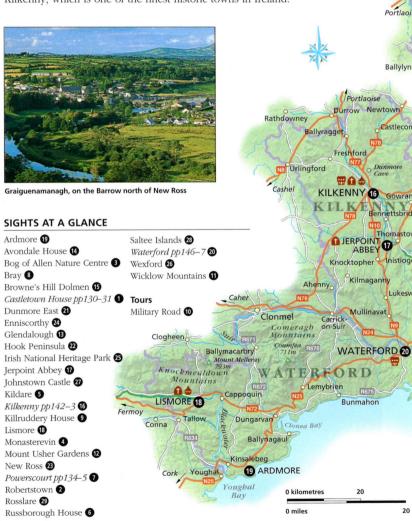
BOG OF ALI

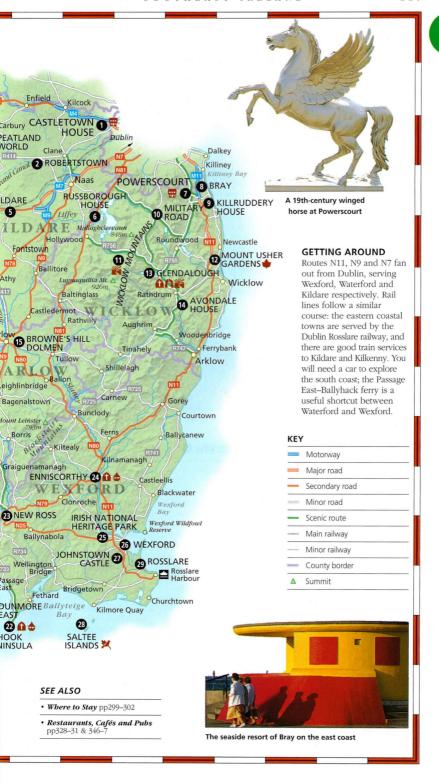
NATURE CEN

MONASTEREVIN 4

## **Exploring Southeast Ireland**

The southeast has something for everyone, from busy seaside resorts to quaint canalside villages, Norman abbeys and bird sanctuaries. The Wicklow Mountains, the location of several major sights such as the monastic complex of Glendalough and the magnificent gardens of Powerscourt, provide perfect touring and walking territory. Further south, the most scenic routes cut through the valleys of the Slaney, Barrow and Nore rivers, flanked by historic ports such as New Ross, from where you can explore local waterways by boat. Along the south coast, which is more varied than the region's eastern shore, beaches are interspersed with rocky headlands, and quiet coastal villages provide good alternative bases to the busy towns of Waterford and Wexford. Further inland, the best places to stay include Lismore and Kilkenny, which is one of the finest historic towns in Ireland.





## Castletown House 0

See pp130-31.

## Robertstown 2

Road map D4. Co Kildare. 🔼 240. 🗐

Ten locks west along the Grand Canal from Dublin. Robertstown is a characteristic 19th-century canalside village, with warehouses and cottages flanking the waterfront. Freight barges plied the route until about 1960, but pleasure boats have since replaced them. Visitors can take barge cruises from the quay and the Grand Canal Company's Hotel, built in 1801 for canal passengers, is now used for banquets.

Near Sallins, about 8 km (5 miles) east of Robertstown. the canal is carried over the River Liffey along the Leinster Aqueduct, an impressive structure built in 1783.

## Bog of Allen

Road map D4. Lullymore, Co Kildare. Tel 045 860133. 💂 to Newbridge. to Allenwood. 9:30am-5:30pm Mon-Fri. 🚳 👢 Itd. www.ipcc.ie

Anyone interested in the natural history of Irish bogs should visit The Nature Centre. Housed in an old farmhouse at Lullymore, 9 km (6 miles) northeast of Rathangan, Peatland World lies at the heart of the Bog of Allen, a vast expanse of raised bogland (see p252) that extends across

the counties



The Grand Canal Company's Hotel in Robertstown

of Offaly, Laois and Kildare. An exhibition of flora, fauna and archaeological finds explores the history and ecology of the bog, while guided walks across the peatlands introduce visitors to the bog's delicate ecosystem.



Stacking peat for use as fuel

## Monasterevin 4

Road map D4. Co Kildare A 2,200.

This Georgian market town lies west of Kildare, where the Grand Canal crosses the River Barrow, Waterborne trade brought prosperity to Monasterevin in the 18th century, but the locks now see little traffic. However, you can still admire the aqueduct, which is a superb example of canal engineering.

Moore Abbey, next to the church, was built in the 18th century on the site of a monastic foundation, but the grand Gothic mansion owes much to Victorian remodelling. Once the ancestral seat of the Earls of Drogheda, in the 1920s Moore Abbey became the home of the celebrated tenor. John McCormack (see p24). It is now a hospital.

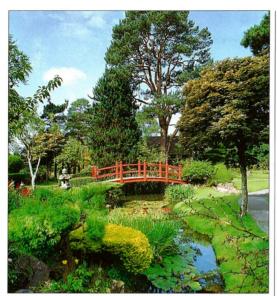
## Kildare 6

Road map D4. Co Kildare. A 4,200. Market House (Jun-Sep: 045 522696). A Thu.

The charming and tidy town of Kildare is dominated by St Brigid's Cathedral, which commemorates the saint who founded a religious community on this site in 480. Unusually, monks and nuns lived here under the same roof, but this was not the only unorthodox practice associated with the community. Curious pagan

rituals, including the burning of a perpetual fire, continued until the 16th century. The fire pit is still visible, as is the highest round tower that can be climbed in Ireland, which was probably built in the 12th

St Brigid's Cathedral and roofless round tower in Kildare town



Japanese Gardens at Tully near Kildare

century and has a Romanesque doorway. The cathedral was rebuilt in the Victorian era, but the restorers largely adhered to the 13th-century design.

St Brigid's Cathedral
Market Square. May—Sep: daily.
Donation.

## Environs

Kildare lies at the heart of racing country: the Curragh racecourse is nearby, stables are scattered all around and bloodstock sales take place at Kill, northeast of town.

The National Stud is a semistate-run bloodstock farm at Tully, just south of Kildare. It was founded in 1900 by an eccentric Anglo-Irish colonel called William Hall-Walker. He sold his foals on the basis of their astrological charts, and put skylights in the stables to allow the horses to be "touched" by sunlight and moonbeams. Hall-Walker received the title Lord Wavertree in reward for bequeathing the farm to the British Crown in 1915.

Visitors can explore the 400-ha (1,000-acre) grounds and watch the horses being exercised. Mares are generally kept in a separate paddock from the stallions. Breeding stallions wait in the covering

shed: each one is expected to cover 100 mares per season. There is a special foaling unit where the mare and foal can remain undisturbed after the birth.

The farm has its own forge and saddlery, and also a Horse Museum. Housed in an old stable block, this illustrates the importance of horses in Irish life. Exhibits include the frail skeleton of Arkle, a famous champion steeplechaser in the 1960s.

Sharing the same estate as the National Stud are the Japanese Gardens and St Fiachra's Garden. The Japanese Gardens were laid out in 1906-10 by Japanese landscape gardener Tassa Eida, with the help of his son Minoru and 40 assistants. The impressive array of trees and shrubs includes maple, bonsai, mulberry, magnolia, sacred bamboo and cherry. The gardens take the form of an allegorical journey through life, beginning with the Gate of Oblivion and leading to the Gateway of Eternity, a contemplative Zen rock garden.

St Fiachra's Garden covers 1.6 ha (4 acres) of woodland, wetland, lakes and islands, and features a Waterford Crystal Garden within the monastic cells.

#### National Stud and Japanese and St Fiachra's Gardens

Tully. *Tel* 045 521617. mid-Feb-mid-Nov: 9:30am-6pm daily (last admission 60 mins before closing).

### HORSE RACING IN IRELAND

Ireland has a strong racing culture and, thanks to its non-elitist image, the sport is enjoyed by all. Much of the thoroughbred industry centres around the Curragh, a grassy plain in County Kildare stretching unfenced for more than 2,000 ha (5,000 acres). This area is home to many of the country's studs and training yards, and every morning horses are put through their paces on the gallops. Most of the major flat races, including the Irish Derby, take place at the Curragh racecourse just east of Kildare. Other fixtures are held at nearby Punchestown – most famously the steeplechase festival in April/May – and at Leopardstown, which also hosts major National Hunt races (see ph28–9).



Finishing straight at the Curragh racecourse

## Castletown House 6

Built in 1722-32 for William Conolly, Speaker of the Irish Parliament, the facade of Castletown was the work of Florentine architect Alessandro Galilei and gave Ireland its first taste of Palladianism. The magnificent interiors date from the second half of the 18th century. They were commissioned by Lady Louisa Lennox, wife of William Conolly's great-nephew, Tom, who lived here from 1759. Castletown remained in the family until 1965, when it was taken

on an armchair over by the Irish Georgian Society. The state now owns the house and it is open to the public.



## **★** Long Gallery

The heavy ceiling sections and friezes date from the 1720s and the walls were decorated in the Pompeian manner in the 1770s.



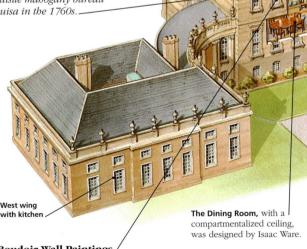
## **Red Drawing Room**

The red damask covering the walls of this room is probably French and dates from the 19th century. This exquisite mahogany bureau was made for Lady Louisa in the 1760s..



## **Boudoir Wall Paintings**

The boudoir's decorative panels, moved here from the Long Gallery, were inspired by the Raphael Loggia in the Vatican.



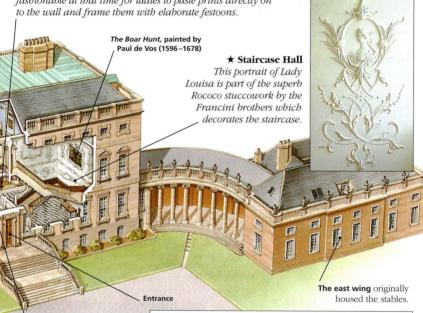
Green Drawing Room



## ★ Print Room

In this, the only intact 18th-century print room in Ireland, Lady Louisa indulged her taste for Italian engravings. It was fashionable at that time for ladies to paste prints directly on to the wall and frame them with elaborate festoons.

## VISITORS' CHECKLIST



The Entrance Hall is an austere Neo-Classical room. Its most decorative feature is the delicate carving on the pilasters of the upper gallery.

## STAR FEATURES

- ★ Long Gallery
- ★ Print Room
- ★ Staircase Hall

## **CONOLLY'S FOLLY**

This folly, which lies just beyond the grounds of Castletown House, provides the focus of the view from the Long Gallery. Speaker Conolly's widow, Katherine, commissioned it in 1740 as a memorial to her late husband, and to provide employment after a harsh winter. The unusual structure of superimposed arches crowned by an obelisk was designed by Richard Castle, architect of Russborough House (see p132).





Saloon in Russborough House with original fireplace and stuccowork

## Russborough House 6

Road map D4. Blessington, Co Wicklow. Tel 045 865239. E 65 from Dublin. May-Sep: 10am-5pm daily; Apr & Oct: 10am–5pm Sun & public hols. じ obligatory. 🕹 📋 💻

This Palladian mansion, built in the 1740s for Joseph Leeson, Earl of Milltown, is one of Ireland's finest houses. Its architect, Richard Castle, also designed Powerscourt House (see pp134-5) and is credited with introducing the Palladian style to Ireland.

Unlike many grand estates in the Pale, Russborough has survived magnificently, both

inside and out. The house claims the longest frontage in Ireland, with a façade adorned by heraldic lions and curved colonnades. The interior is even more impressive.

Many rooms feature superb stucco decoration, which was done largely by the Italian Francini brothers, who also worked on Castletown House (see pp130-31). The best examples are found in the music room, saloon and library.

which are embellished with exuberant foliage and cherubs. Around the main staircase, a riot of Rococo plasterwork

depicts a hunt, with hounds clasping garlands of flowers. The stucco mouldings in the drawing room were designed especially to enclose marine scenes by the French artist. Joseph Vernet (1714–89). The paintings were sold in 1926. but were tracked down more than 40 years afterwards and returned to the house.

Russborough has many other treasures, including finely worked fireplaces of Italian marble, imposing mahogany doorways and priceless collections of silver, porcelain and Gobelin tapestries.

Such riches aside, one of the principal reasons to visit Russborough is to see the Beit Art Collection, famous for its Flemish, Dutch and Spanish Old Master paintings. Sir Alfred Beit, who bought the house in 1952, inherited the pictures from his uncle - also named Alfred Beit and co-founder of the de Beers

> empire in South Africa, In 1974. 1986 and 2000 several masterpieces were stolen from the house. Most were later retrieved. More disappeared in another robbery in

2001, all of which were recovered. Only a selection of paintings is on view in the house at any one time, while others are on



Vernet seascape in the drawing room

#### THE HISTORY OF THE PALE

The term "Pale" refers to an area around Dublin which marked the limits of English influence from Norman to Tudor times. The frontier fluctuated, but at its largest the Pale stretched from Dundalk in County Louth to Waterford town. Gaelic chieftains outside the area could keep their lands provided they agreed to bring up their heirs within the Pale.

The Palesmen supported their rulers' interests and considered themselves the upholders of English values. This widened the gap between the Gaelic majority and the Anglo-Irish, a foretaste of England's doomed involvement in the country. Long after its fortifications were dismantled, the idea of the Pale lived on as a state of mind. The expression "beyond the pale" survives as a definition of those outside the bounds of civilized society.



An 18th-century family enjoying the privileged lifestyle typical within the Pale



Tourist road train on the beachfront esplanade at Bray

permanent loan to the National Gallery in Dublin (see pp 70–71).

Russborough enjoys a fine position near the village of **Blessington**, with a good view across to the Wicklow Mountains. The house lies amid wooded parkland rather than elaborate flower gardens. As Alfred Beit said of Irish Palladianism, "Fine architecture standing in a green sward was considered enough."

#### **Environs**

The Poulaphouca Reservoir, which was formed by the damming of the River Liffey, extends south from Blessington. The placid lake is popular with watersports enthusiasts, while other visitors come simply to enjoy the lovely mountain views.

## Powerscourt 0

See pp134-5.

## Bray 3

Road map D4. Co Wicklow.

33,000. DART. Old
Court House, Main St (01 286 7128).

www.bray.ie

Once a refined Victorian resort, Bray is nowadays a brash holiday town, with amusement arcades and fish and chip shops lining the seafront. Its beach attracts large crowds in summer, including many young families. A more peaceful alternative is nearby

Bray Head, where there is scope for bracing cliffside walks. Bray also makes a good base from which to explore Powerscourt Gardens, the Wicklow Mountains and the coastal villages of Killiney and Dalkey (see p103).

## Killruddery House and Gardens **9**

Road map D4. Bray, Co Wicklow.

Tel 0404 46024. May-Sep:

1pm-5pm daily. May-Sep:

www.killruddery.com

Killruddery House lies just to the south of Bray, in the shadow of Little Sugar Loaf Mountain. Built in 1651, it has been the family seat of the Earls of Meath ever since, although the original mansion was remodelled in an Elizabethan Revival style in the early 19th century. The house

contains some good carving and stuccowork, but the real charm of Killruddery lies in the 17th-century formal gardens, regarded as the finest French Classical gardens in the country. They were laid out in the 1680s by a French gardener named Bonet, who also worked at Versailles.

The gardens, planted with great precision, feature romantic parterres, a whole array of different hedges and many fine trees and shrubs, both native and foreign. The sylvan theatre, a small enclosure surrounded by a bay hedge, is the only known example of its kind in Ireland.

The Long Ponds, a pair of canals which extend 165 m (542 ft), were once used to stock fish. Beyond, a pool enclosed by two circular hedges leads to a Victorian arrangement of paths flanked by statues and hedges of yew, beech, lime and hornbeam.



View across the Long Ponds to Killruddery House

Laocoön statue

on upper terrace

## Powerscourt •

The gardens at Powerscourt are probably the finest in Ireland, both for their design and their dramatic setting at the foot of Great Sugar Loaf Mountain. The house and grounds were commissioned in the 13730s by Richard Wingfield, the 1st

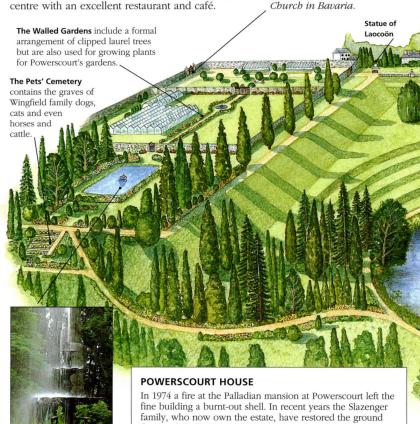
Viscount Powerscourt. New ornamental gardens were completed in 1858–75 by the 7th Viscount, who added gates, urns and statues collected during his travels in Europe. The house was gutted by an accidental fire in 1974,

gutted by an accidental fire in 1974, but the ground floor has been beautifully renovated and now accommodates an upmarket shopping



## **Bamberg Gate**

Made in Vienna in the 1770s, this gilded wrought-iron gate was brought to Powerscourt by the 7th Viscount from Bamberg Church in Bavaria.



## **Dolphin Pond**

This pool, designed as a fish pond in the 18th century, is enclosed by exotic conifers in a lovely secluded garden. floor and the ballroom upstairs, although much work remains to be done to the rest of the house. Originally built in 1731 on the site of a Norman castle, the house was designed by Richard Castle, who was also the architect of Russborough House (see p132).



Powerscourt ablaze in 1974



The Italian Garden is

laid out on terraces

which were first cut

into the steep hillside in the 1730s.

#### \* The Perron

Leading down to Triton Lake is the Perron, a beautiful Italianate stairway added in 1874. Beside the lake, it is guarded by two statues of Pegasus - the mythical winged borse and emblem of the Wingfield family.

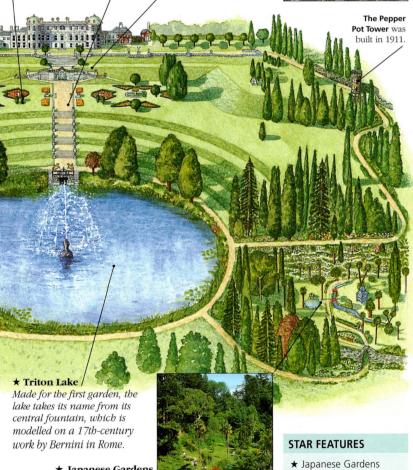
## VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Road map D4. Enniskerry, Co Wicklow. Tel 01 204 6000. Alpine Coach from Bray DART station. 9:30am-5:30pm (dusk Oct-Mar) daily. 25 & 26 Dec. 16 & 11 1 www.powerscourt.ie

# **Pebble Mosaic**

Many tonnes of pebbles were gathered from nearby Bray beach to build the Perron and to make this mosaic on the terrace.





## **★** Japanese Gardens

These enchanting Edwardian gardens, created out of bogland, contain Chinese conifers and bamboo trees.

- ★ The Perron
- ★ Triton Lake





## A Tour of the Military Road o



The British built the Military Road through the heart of the Wicklow Mountains during a campaign to flush out Irish rebels after an uprising in 1798 (see p149). Now known as the R115, this road takes you through the

DUBLIN

emptiest and most rugged landscapes Rare red squirrel of County Wicklow. Fine countryside, in which deer and other wildlife flourish, is characteristic of the whole of this tour.

Glencree (1)

The former British barracks in

found along the Military Road.

Glencree are among several



#### **Powerscourt** Waterfall (9) The River Dargle

cascades 130 m (425 ft) over a granite escarpment to form Ireland's highest waterfall.

## **Great Sugar Loaf** (8)

The granite cone of Great Sugar Loaf Mountain can be climbed in under an hour from the car park on its southern side.

## Lough Tay ①

Stark, rocky slopes plunge down to the dark waters of Lough Tay. Though it lies within a Guinnessowned estate, the lake is accessible to walkers.

#### Roundwood 6

Enniskerry

Powerscourt

The highest village in Ireland at 238 m (780 ft) above sea level, Roundwood enjoys a fine setting. Its main street is lined with pubs, cafés and craft shops.

## Glendalough 4

Sally Gap (2)

This remote pass is

expanse of blanket

bog dotted with pools and streams.

Glenmacnass ③

dramatically

over rocks.

surrounded by a vast

After Sally Gap, the road

drops into a deep glen

where a waterfall spills

This ancient lakeside monastery (see pp140-41), enclosed by wooded slopes, is the prime historical sight in the Wicklow Mountains.

## **TIPS FOR DRIVERS**

Length: 96 km (60 miles). Stopping-off points: There are several pubs and cafés in Enniskerry (including Poppies, an old-fashioned tearoom), and also in Roundwood, but this area is better for picnics. There are several marked picnic spots south of Enniskerry. (See also pp387-9.) 0 kilometres 0 miles **KEY** Tour route Other roads

Viewpoint

nnamo

### Vale of Clara (5)

This picturesque wooded valley follows the River Avonmore. It contains the tiny village of Clara, which consists of two houses, a church and a school.

## Wicklow Mountains **a**

Road map D4. to Rathdrum & Wicklow. to Enniskerry, Wicklow, Glendalough, Rathdrum & Avoca. Rialto House, Fitzwilliam Square, Wicklow (0404 69117).

Standing amid the rugged wilderness of the Wicklow Mountains, it can be hard to believe that Dublin is under an hour's drive away. The inaccessibility of the mountains meant that they once provided a safe hideout for opponents of English rule. When much of the Southeast was obedient to the English Crown, within an area known as the Pale (see p132), warlords such as the O'Tooles ruled in the Wicklow

Mountains. Rebels who took part in the 1798 uprising (see p41) sought refuge here too. One of their leaders, Michael Dwyer, remained at liberty in the hills around Sally Gap until 1803.

The building of the **Military Road**,

started in 1800, made the area more accessible, but the mountains are still thinly populated. There is little traffic to disturb enjoyment of the beautiful rock-strewn glens, lush forest and bogland where heather gives a purple sheen to the land. Turf-cutting is still a thriving cottage industry, and

you often see peat stacked up by the road. Numerous walking trails weave through these landscapes. Among them is the Wicklow Way, which extends 132 km (82 miles) from Marlay Park in Dublin to Clonegal in County Carlow. It is marked but not always easy to follow, so do not set out without a decent map. Although no peak exceeds 915 m (3,000 ft), the Wicklow Mountains can be dangerous in bad weather.

Hiking apart, there is plenty to see and do in this region. A good starting point for exploring the northern area is the picture-postcard estate village of Enniskerry. In summer, it is busy with tourists who come to visit the gardens at Powerscourt (see pp.134–5). From Laragh, to the south, you can reach Glendalough (see

pp140–41) and the Vale of Avoca, where cherry trees are laden with blossom in the spring. The beauty of this gentle valley was captured in the poetry of Thomas Moore (1779–1852):

"There is not in the wide world a valley so sweet as that vale in whose bosom the bright waters meet" – a reference to the confluence of the Avonbeg and Avonmore rivers, the so-called **Meeting of the Waters** beyond Avondale House (see

p141). Nestled among wooded



Mount Usher Gardens, on the banks of the River Vartry

hills at the heart of the valley is the hamlet of Avoca, where the **Avoca Handweavers** produce colourful tweeds in the oldest hand-weaving mill in Ireland, in operation since 1723.

Further north, towards the coast near Ashford, the River Vartry rushes through the deep chasm of the **Devil's Glen**. On entering the valley, the river falls 30 m (100 ft) into a pool known as the Devil's Punchbowl. There are good walks around here, with fine views of the coast.

Avoca Handweavers

Avoca. *Tel* 0402 35105. daily. 25 & 26 Dec. Market

# Mount Usher Gardens @

Road map D4. Ashford, Co Wicklow. Tel 0404 40205. To Ashford. Mar—Oct: daily. May 1 G Is limited. I limited. May 1 to book. www.mount-usher-gardens.com

Set beside the River Vartry just east of Ashford are the Mount Usher Gardens. They were designed in 1868 by a Dubliner, Edward Walpole, who imbued them with his strong sense of romanticism.

The gardens contain many rare shrubs and trees, from Chinese conifers and bamboos to Mexican pines and pampas grass. The Maple Walk is glorious in autumn. The river provides the main focus, and amid the exotic vegetation you can glimpse herons.



Bearnas na Diallaite

SALLY GAP

Bealach Mileata

MILITARY ROAD

LIFFEY VALLEY

VARTRY DRIVE

Bealach Fheartire

Road sign in the

**Wicklow Mountains** 

Gleann Life

Colourful moorland around Sally Gap in the Wicklow Mountains

## Glendalough ®

Road map D4. Co Wicklow. 
St Kevin's Bus from Dublin. Ruins 
daily. 
In summer. Visitors' Centre
Tel 0404 45325/45352. 
daily.
24-27 Dec. 
24-27 Dec.

The steep, wooded slopes of Glendalough, the "valley of the two lakes", harbour one of Ireland's most atmospheric monastic sites. Established by St Kevin in the 6th century, the settlement was sacked time and again by the Vikings but nevertheless flourished for over 600 years. Decline set in only after English forces partially razed the site in 1398, though it functioned as a monastic centre until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 (see p38). Pilgrims kept on coming to Glendalough even after that, particularly on St Kevin's feast day, 3 June, which was often a riotous event (see p30).

The age of the buildings is uncertain, but most date from the 8th to 12th centuries. Many were restored during the 1870s.



Remains of the Gatehouse, the original entrance to Glendalough



View along the Upper Lake at Glendalough

The main group of ruins lies east of the Lower Lake, but other buildings associated with St Kevin are by the Upper Lake. Here, where the scenery is much wilder, you are better able to enjoy the tranquillity of Glendalough and to escape the crowds which

inevitably descend on the site. Try to arrive as early as possible in the day, particularly during the peak tourist season. You enter the monastery

through the double stone arch of the **Gatehouse**, the only surviving example in Ireland of a gateway into a monastic enclosure.

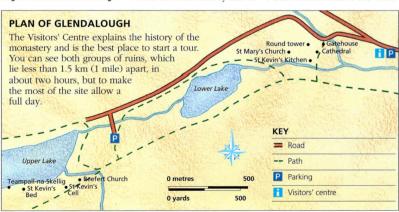
St Kevin's Kitchen

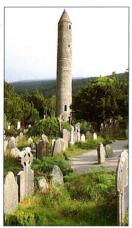
A short walk leads to a graveyard with a **Round Tower** in one corner. Reaching 30 m (91 ft) in height, this is one of the finest of its kind in the country. Its cap was rebuilt in the 1870s using stones found inside the tower. The roofless **Cathedral** nearby dates mainly from the 12th century and is

the valley's largest ruin. At the centre of the churchyard stands the tiny **Priests' House**, whose name derives from the fact that it was a burial place

for local clergy. The worn carving of a robed figure above the door is possibly of St Kevin, flanked by two disciples. East of here, **St Kevin's Cross** dates from the 8th century and is one of the best preserved of Glendalough's various High Crosses. Made of granite, the cross may once have marked the

boundary of the monastic cemetery. Below, nestled in the lush valley, a minuscule oratory with a steeply pitched stone roof is a charming sight. Erected in the 11th century or even earlier, it is popularly known as **5t Kevin's Kitchen**; this is perhaps because its belfry, thought to be a later addition, resembles a chimney. One of the earliest churches at Glendalough, **5t Mary's**, lies across a field to the west.





Round tower at Glendalough

Some traces of Romanesque moulding are visible outside the east window. Following the path along the south bank of the river, you reach the Upper Lake. This is the site of more monastic ruins and is also the chief starting point for walks through the valley and to a number of abandoned lead and zinc mines.

Situated in a grove not far from the Poulanass waterfall are the ruins of the Reefert Church, a simple Romanesque building. Its unusual name is a corruption of Righ Fearta, meaning "burial place of the kings"; the church may mark the site of an ancient cemetery. Near here, on a rocky spur overlooking the Upper Lake, stands St Kevin's Cell, the ruins of a beehive-shaped structure which is thought to have been the hermit's home.

There are two sites on the south side of the lake which cannot be reached on foot but are visible from the opposite shore. Teampall-na-Skellig, or the "church on the rock", was supposedly built on the site of the first church that St Kevin founded at Glendalough. To the east of it, carved into the cliff, is St Kevin's Bed. This small cave, in reality little more than a rocky ledge, may have been used as a tomb in the Bronze Age, but it is more famous as St Kevin's favourite retreat. It was from here that the saint allegedly rejected the advances of a naked woman by tossing her into the lake.

### ST KEVIN AT GLENDALOUGH

St Kevin was born in 498, a descendant of the royal house of Leinster. He rejected his life of privilege, however, choosing to live instead as a hermit in a cave at Glendalough. He later founded a monastery here, and went on to create a notable centre of learning devoted to the care of the sick and the copying and illumination of manuscripts. St Kevin attracted many disciples to Glendalough during his life-

after his death in around 618. Colourful legends about the saint make up for the dearth of facts about him. That he lived to the age of 120 is just one of the stories told about him. Another tale claims that one day, when St Kevin was at prayer, a blackbird laid an egg in one of his outstretched hands. The saint remained in the same position until it was hatched.

time, but the monastery became more celebrated as a place of pilgrimage

since 1900. There are some

### Avondale House @

Road map D4. Co Wicklow. Tel 0404 46111. 🖪 🗐 to Rathdrum. House mid-Mar-Oct: 11am-6pm (Nov-Feb 5pm) daily. Good Fri & 23-28 Dec; Mar-Apr, Sep-Oct: Mon. 189 11 6 & Itd. Grounds adaily. www.coillte.ie

Lving just south of Rathdrum. Avondale House is the birthplace of the 19th-century politician and patriot, Charles Stewart Parnell (see p43). The Georgian mansion is now a museum dedicated to Parnell

and the fight for Home Rule. The grounds are open to the public. Known as Avondale Forest Park, they include an impressive arboretum first planted in the

to

lovely walks through the woods, with pleasant views along the River Avonmore.

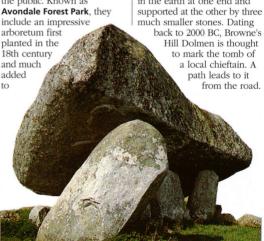
Road map D4. Co Carlow. 🖪 🗐

# Browne's Hill

Dolmen @

to Carlow. \ daily.

In a field 3 km (2 miles) east of Carlow, along the R726, stands a dolmen boasting the biggest capstone in Ireland. Weighing a reputed 100 tonnes, this massive stone is embedded in the earth at one end and



Browne's Hill Dolmen, famous for its enormous capstone

# Street-by-Street: Kilkenny 6



\_\_\_ Grace's Castle was built in 1210 and later

converted into a jail.

Remodelled in the

18th century, it has

functioned as a

courthouse

ever since.



Kilkenny coat medieval capital of

Kilkenny is undoubtedly Ireland's loveliest inland city. It rose to prominence in the 13th century and became the

of arms Ireland. The Anglo-Norman Butler family came to power in the 1390s and held sway over the city for 500 years. Their power has gone but their legacy is visible in the city's historic buildings, many of which have been restored. Kilkenny is proud of its heritage and every August hosts the Republic's top arts festival.



#### **★** Rothe House

This fine Tudor merchant's house, built around two courtyards, is fronted by arcades once typical of Kilkenny's main streets. A small museum inside thouse contains a display of local archaeological artifacts and a costume collection.



Narrow alleyways, / known locally as "slips", are part of Kilkenny's medieval

heritage. Several slips survive, and these are currently undergoing restoration.

Marble City Bar

Tholsel (City Hall)

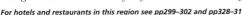


The alley is named after the butter stalls that once lined this small market place.



### View of the High Street

The 18th-century Tholsel, with its distinctive clock tower and arcade, is the main landmark on the High Street. Its elegant Georgian chamber is used by city councillors to this day.





### STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Kilkenny Castle
- ★ Rothe House



### Kyteler's Inn

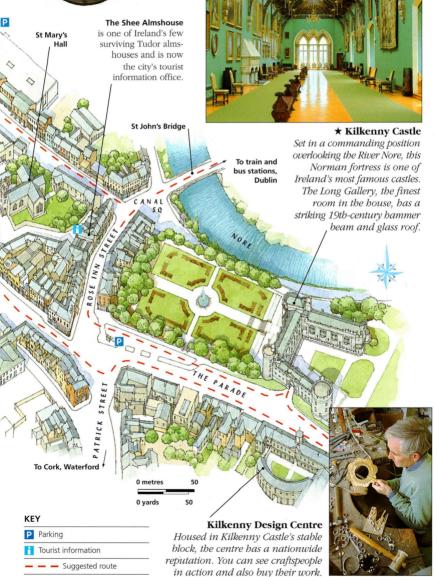
This medieval coaching inn (see p346) is named after Dame Alice Kyteler, a 14th-century witch who once lived in the building. Like most of the pubs in the city, Kyteler's Inn sells Smithwick's beer, which has been brewed in Kilkenny since 1710.

### **VISITORS' CHECKLIST**

Road map C4. Co Kilkenny. 

20,000. 
☐ Dublin Rd (056 772
2024). 
☐ Rose Inn St (056 776
4933). 
☐ Shee Almshouse, Rose
Inn St (056 775 1500). Rothe
House Tel 056 772 2893. 
☐
Apr-Oct: 10:30am-5pm Mon-Sat,
3-5pm Sun; Nov-Mar: 1-5pm
Mon-Sat. 

Ø



### **Exploring Kilkenny**

In a lovely spot beside a kink in the River Nore, Kilkenny is of great architectural interest, with much use made of the distinctive local black limestone, known as Kilkenny marble. A tour of the town also reveals many unexpected treasures: a Georgian façade often seems to conceal a Tudor chimney, a Classical interior or some other surprise.

The survival of the Irishtown district, now dominated by St Canice's Cathedral, recalls past segregation in Kilkenny. The area once known as Englishtown still boasts the city's grandest public buildings.

As a brewery city, Kilkenny is a paradise for keen drinkers. Not counting the popular private drinking clubs, there are about 80 official pubs.



Sign of the Marble City Bar on Kilkenny's High Street

### Kilkenny Castle

The Parade. Tel 056 772 1450.

daily. Good Fri & 10 days at Christmas. Deligatory. Imited. Queues are likely during the summer. www.heritageireland.ie

Built in the 1190s, Kilkenny Castle was occupied right up until 1935. The powerful Butler family (see p142) lived in it from the late 14th century, but because of the exorbitant running costs, their descendants eventually donated



Tomb of 2nd Marquess of Ormonde in St Canice's Cathedral



North side of Kilkenny Castle showing Victorian crenellations

drum towers and solid walls, the castle retains its medieval form, but has undergone many alterations. The Victorian changes made in Gothic Revival style have had the most enduring impact, and are even more impressive since recent restoration work.

High spots of a tour include the library, the wood-panelled dining room and the Chinese bedroom.

Best of all, however, is the Long Gallery, built in the 1820s to house the Butler art collection. Its elaborate painted ceiling has a strong Pre-Raphaelite feel, with many of the motifs inspired by the Book of Kells (see p64).

The castle grounds have shrunk over the centuries, but the French Classical gardens remain, with terraces opening onto a woodland walk and pleasant rolling parkland.

### St Canice's Cathedral

Irishtown. **Tel** 056 776 4971 daily. 6 • &

The hilltop cathedral, flanked by a round tower, was built in the 13th century in an Early English Gothic style. It was sacked by Cromwell's forces in 1650, but has survived as one of Ireland's medieval treasures. Walls of the local Kilkenny limestone and pillars of pale limestone combine to create an interior of simple grandeur. An array of splendid 16th-century tombs includes the beautiful effigies of the Butler family in the south transept. It is worth climbing the tower for a fine view over Kilkenny.

### 

Abbey St. Tel 056 772 1279.

daily. &

Lying just west of Parliament Street, this Dominican abbey was founded in 1225. Part of it was turned into a courthouse in the 16th century, but is once again a working monastery. The church has a fine vaulted undercroft, distinctive stonework, some beautiful stained-glass windows, and a 14th-century alabaster statue of the holy trinity.

#### **Environs**

Just north of the town lies **Dunmore Cave**, a limestone cavern with an impressive series of chambers, noted for its steep descent and curious rock formations.

**Bennettsbridge**, on the Nore 8 km (5 miles) south of Kilkenny, is famous for its ceramics. The Nicholas Mosse Pottery (see p357) specializes in colourful earthenware made from the local clay.

#### Dunmore Cave

Ballyfoyle. **Tel** 056 776 7726.

Mar-Oct: daily; Nov-Feb: Sat, Sun & public hols. 

obligatory. 

www.heritageireland.ie

### Jerpoint Abbey **©**

Road map D5. Thomastown, Co Kilkenny. Tel 056 772 4623. 🖪 🗐 to Thomastown. Mar-May & mid-Sep-Oct: 10am-5pm (Nov 4pm) daily; Jun-mid-Sep: 9:30am-6pm daily; Dec: by appt only. 🚳 🌠 👃

On the banks of the Little Arrigle just south of Thomastown, Jerpoint Abbey is one of the finest Cistercian ruins in Ireland. Founded in 1160, the fortified medieval complex rivalled Duiske Abbey (see p149) in prestige. Jerpoint flourished until the Dissolution of the Monasteries (see pp38-9), when it passed to the Earl of Ormonde.

The 15th-century cloisters have not survived as well as some earlier parts of the abbey. Despite this. they are the highlight of Jerpoint, with their amusing sculptures of knights, courtly ladies, bishops and dragons. The church itself is well preserved. The Irish-Romanesque transepts date back to the earliest period of the Abbey's development and contain several 16th-century tombs decorated with exquisite stylized carvings. The north side of the nave has a rich array of decorated Romanesque capitals **Burne-Jones window** and throughout the abbey are tombs and effigies of early

bishops and patrons. The battlemented crossing tower was added during the 1400s.



Stylized carving of saints on 16th-century tomb in Jerpoint Abbey

### Lismore @

Road map C5. Co Waterford 1,200. A Lismore Heritage Centre (058 54975). Craft shop. www.discoverlismore.com

This genteel riverside town is dwarfed by Lismore Castle, perched above the River

> Blackwater. Built in 1185 but remodelled in the 19th century, the castle is the Irish seat of the Duke of Devonshire and is closed to the public. However, you can visit the sumptuous gardens, which include a lovely riverside walk. Lismore Heritage Centre tells the story of St Carthage, who founded a monastic centre here in the 7th century. The town has two cathedrals dedicated to him. The



elements and was later altered to suit the Neo-Gothic tastes of the Victorians. It has fine

Gothic vaulting, and a stained-glass window by the Pre-Raphaelite artist, Sir Edward Burne-Iones.

**▲** Lismore Castle Gardens Tel 058 54288. Apr, May, 1-28 Sep: 1:45-4:45pm daily; Jun-Aug: 11am-4:45pm daily.

#### **Environs**

From Lismore you can follow a picturesque route through the Blackwater Valley (see p177). This runs from Cappoquin, in an idyllic woodland setting east of Lismore, to the estuary at Youghal (see p179).

### Ardmore @

Road map C5. Co Waterford. A 450. 🖨 🕆 Jun-Sep: Beach Car Park (024 94444).

Ardmore is a popular seaside resort with a splendid beach, lively pubs, good cliff walks and some interesting architecture. The hill beside the village is the site of a monastery established in the 5th century by St Declan, the first missionary to bring Christianity to this area.

Most of the buildings, including the ruined St Declan's Cathedral, date from the 12th century. The cathedral's west wall has fine Romanesque sculptures, arranged in a series of arcades. The scenes include The Archangel Michael Weighing Souls in the upper row, and below this The Adoration of the Magi and The Judgment of Solomon.

The adjacent round tower is one of the best preserved examples in Ireland, and rises to a height of 30 m (98 ft). An oratory nearby is said to mark the site of St Declan's grave.



in St Carthage's

Cathedral, Lismore

St Declan's Cathedral at Ardmore, with its near-perfect round tower

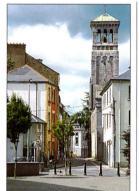
### Waterford o



Waterford city coat of arms

Waterford, Ireland's oldest city, was founded by Vikings in 914. Set in a commanding position by the estuary of the River Suir, it became southeast Ireland's main seaport. From the 18th century, the city's prosperity was consolidated by local industries, including the glassworks for which Waterford is famous. The strong

commercial tradition persists today and Waterford's port is still one of Ireland's busiest. In the last few years, following extensive archaeological excavations in the city centre, a new heart and atmosphere has been put into the old city with the creation of pedestrian precincts in the historic quarter and along the quays.



Cathedral Close, looking towards Lady Lane in the heart of the city

#### **Exploring Waterford**

The extensive remains of the city walls clearly define the area originally fortified by the Vikings. The best-preserved section runs northwest from the Watch Tower on Castle Street, although Reginald's Tower, overlooking the river, is the largest structure in the old defences. In The Reginald Bar you can see the arches through which boats sailed forth down the river; these sallyports are one of several Viking sections of the largely Norman fortifications.

Although Waterford retains its medieval layout, most of the city's finest buildings are Georgian. Some of the best examples can be seen on the Mall, which runs southwest from Reginald's Tower, and in the lovely Cathedral Square. The latter takes its name from

was built in the 1770s to a design by John Roberts, a local architect who contributed much to the city's Georgian heritage. It is fronted by a fine Corinthian colonnade. A grim 15th-century effigy of a rotting corpse is an unexpected sight inside. Heading down towards the river, you pass the 13th-century ruins of Grey Friars, often known as the French Church after it became a Huguenot chapel in 1693.

West along the waterfront, a Victorian clock tower stands at the top of Barronstrand Street. Rising above the busy shops is Holy Trinity Cathedral, which has a rich Neo-Classical interior. George's Street, which runs west from here, is dotted with period houses and cosy pubs. It leads to O'Connell Street, whose partially restored warehouses contrast with the shabbier buildings on the quay. In the summer, you can enjoy another view of the waterfront by taking a cruise on the river.



Reginald's Tower on the quayside

### Reginald's Tower

The Quay. Tel 051 304220. Easter-Oct: daily; Nov-Easter: Wed-Sun. The Vikings built a fort on this site in 914 but it was the Anglo-Normans who, in 1185, built the stone structure seen today. With impregnable walls 3 m (10 ft) thick, the tower is said to be the first Irish building to use mortar, a primitive concoction of blood, lime, fur and mud. It is the oldest civic urban building in Ireland.

#### 

The Granary, Merchants Quay. **Tel** 051 304500. Apr-Sep: 9:30am-6pm Mon-Sat, 11am-6pm Sun; Oct-Mar: 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun.

### 1 Jan. 16 & 11 fi

www.waterfordtreasures.com
This multi-award-winning
interactive museum tells the
story of Waterford from its
Viking foundation to the late
19th century.



Christchurch Cathedral, which | View of the city of Waterford across the River Suir

# Waterford Crystal Factory Kilbarry. *Tel* 051 332500. Mar–Oct: 8:30am–6pm daily; Nov–Feb: 9am–5pm

Mon–Fri. ☐ 17 Dec. Ø & Www.waterfordvisitorscentre.com

A visit to the Waterford Crystal Factory, just 2.5 km (1.5 miles) south of the city, is highly recommended to observe the process of crystal-making.

The original glass factory was founded in 1783 by two brothers, George and William



the Waterford Crystal Factory

Penrose, who chose Waterford because of its port. For many decades their crystal enjoyed an unrivalled reputation, but draconian taxes caused the firm to close in 1851. A new factory was opened in 1947, however, and master blowers and engravers were brought from the Continent to train local apprentices. Competition from Tipperary and Galway Crystal had an effect in the early 1990s, but sales have revived in recent years.

Visitors can follow all stages of production, observing the process by which sand, lead and potash are transformed by fire into sparkling crystal. The main difference between ordinary glass and crystal is the latter's high lead content, 30 per cent in Waterford's case. The glass-blowers require great skill to create walls of the right thickness to take the heavy incisions typical of Waterford Crystal. The factory's other main hallmark is the Waterford signature, which is engraved on the base of each piece. In the showroom, a crystal chandelier lights up a table

laden with pottery and glass.

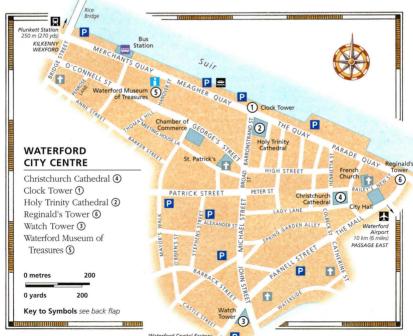
### VISITORS' CHECKLIST



Ballyhack port, across Waterford Harbour from Passage East

#### **Environs**

The small port of **Passage East**, 12 km (7 miles) east of Waterford, witnessed the landing of the Normans in 1170 (see p36), but little has happened since. A car ferry links the village to Ballyhack in County Wexford, providing a scenic shortcut across Waterford Harbour as well as an excellent entry point to the Hook Peninsula (see p148).



### Dunmore East @

Road map D5. Co Waterford. 1,500.

The appeal of Dunmore East, Waterford's most charming fishing village, lies chiefly in its red sandstone cliffs and bustling harbour. Paths run along the foot of the cliffs, but for the best views take the road that winds uphill from the beach, past tidy cottages and the ivy-clad Ship Inn to the Haven Hotel. A gate nearby leads to delightful gardens overlooking the fishing boats below. Climbing further, up steps cut into the rock, you are rewarded by views of the cliffs and noisy kittiwake colonies.

### Hook Peninsula @

Road map D5. Co. Wexford. 🗐 to Duncannon. 📥 from Passage East to Ballyhack (051 382480). Fethard-on-Sea (051 397502). www.thehook-wexford.com

This tapering headland of gentle landscapes scattered with ancient ruins and quiet villages is perfect for a circular tour. The "Ring of Hook" route begins south of New Ross at Dunbrody Abbey, the ruins of a 12th-century Cistercian church, but Ballyhack is another good place to start. Once a fortified crossing point into County Waterford, the town still has a ferry service to neighbouring Passage East (see p147). Ballyhack Castle, built by the Knights Templar in about 1450, contains a small museum. About 4 km (2.5



**Busy fishing harbour at Dunmore East** 

miles) beyond is the small resort of Duncannon, with a broad sandy beach and a starshaped fort, which was built in 1588 in expectation of an attack by the Spanish Armada.

The coast road continues south to Hook Head. Here is Europe's oldest working lighthouse, dating from 1172 and now with its own visitor centre. Paths skirt the coast famous for its fossils, seals and a variety of seabirds.

Just 2 km (1.5 miles) east is the village of Slade. A ruined 15th-century tower house, Slade Castle, presides over the harbour where fishing boats cluster around the slipways. The road proceeds along the rugged coastline, past the resort of Fethard-on-Sea and Saltmills to the dramatic ruin of Tintern Abbey. This 13thcentury Cistercian foundation was built by William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, in fulfilment of a vow made when his boat was caught in a storm off the coast nearby. Fields lead to an old stone bridge and views over Bannow Bay, where it is

thought the Normans made their first landing in 1169.

- ♠ Dunbrody Abbey Campile. Tel 051 388603.
- Apr-Sep: daily. (6) **▲** Ballyhack Castle
- Ballyhack. Tel 051 389468. Jun-Sep: daily.
- Tel 051 562 650.
- May-Oct: daily. 169

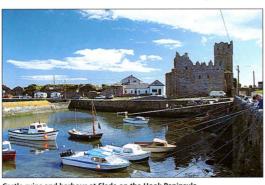


Norman lighthouse at Hook Head, on the tip of the Hook Peninsula

### New Ross @

Road map D5. Co Wexford. 6,000. mid-Jun-Aug: The Quay (051 421857). A Tue. Galley Cruising Restaurants The Quay (051 421723). www.dunbrody.com

Lying on the banks of the River Barrow, New Ross is one of the oldest towns in the county. Its importance, now as in the past, stems from its status as a port. In summer there is much activity on the river, with cruises plying the Barrow, Nore and Suir rivers. Traditional shopfronts line the streets, which rise steeply



Castle ruins and harbour at Slade on the Hook Peninsula

from the quayside. The **Tholsel**, now the town hall but originally a tollhouse, was occupied by the British during the 1798 rebellion (*see pp40–41*). Opposite, a monument to a Wexford pikeman commemorates the bravery of the Irish rebels who faced the British cannons.

Nearby is **St Mary's** which, when founded in the 13th century, was the largest parish church in Ireland. A modern church occupies the site, but the original (now roofless) south transept remains, as do many medieval tombstones.

#### **Environs**

A popular trip up the meandering Barrow goes 16 km (10 miles) north to Graiguenamanagh. The main attraction of this market town is Duiske Abbey, the largest Cistercian church in Ireland. Founded in 1207, it has been extensively restored and now acts as the parish church. The most striking features include a Romanesque door in the south transept, the great oak roof and traces of a medieval pavement below floor level. There is also a cross-legged statue of the Knight of Duiske, which is one of the finest medieval effigies in Ireland. Outside are two 9thcentury granite High Crosses.

Trips along the Nore take you to **Inistioge**. Lying in a deep, wooded valley, this is an idyllic village, with neat 18th-century houses, a square planted with lime trees and a ten-arched bridge spanning the Nore. On a rock above the river stands a ruined Norman fort, a popular place for picnics.

From Inistioge you can walk along the river or up to **Woodstock House Demesne**, a national park. Among the



View over Enniscorthy and St Aidan's cathedral from Vinegar Hill

beech woods stands an 18thcentury mansion, currently undergoing restoration.

On a hill 12 km (7.5 miles) south of New Ross, a large area of woodland is enclosed within the John F Kennedy Park and Arboretum. Founded in 1968, near the late president's ancestral home in Dunganstown (now The Kennedy Homestead), the 400-acre park boasts more than 4,500 types of tree and provides splendid panoramic views. There are marked paths and nature trails.

↑ Duiske Abbey
Graiguenamanagh, Co Kilkenny.
Tel 059 972 4238. ↑ daily. €

### John F Kennedy Park and Arboretum

New Ross, Co Wexford. *Tel 051* 388171. daily. Good Fri & 25 Dec. My May–Dec. www.heritageireland.ie

### Enniscorthy 2

Road map D5. Co Wexford.

5,000. The 1798 Visitor Centre (054 37596).

The streets of Enniscorthy, on the banks of the River Slaney, are full of character and past. In 1798, Enniscorthy witnessed the last stand of the Wexford pikemen, when a fierce battle was fought against a British force of 20,000 on nearby Vinegar Hill. The events of that year are told both at the County Museum inside the imposing Enniscorthy Castle, and at the multimedia National 1798 Visitor Centre. Enniscorthy's other main sight is the Neo-Gothic St Aidan's Cathedral. designed in the 1840s by AWN Pugin (1812–52), better known for his work on London's Houses of Parliament.

Granaries, mills and potteries overlook the Slaney, including Carley's Bridge, founded in 1654 and still operational. Enniscorthy's historic pubs are another attraction. They include the Antique Tavern (see p346), which is hung with pikes used during the Battle of Vinegar Hill in 1798.

Millpark Road. *Tel 054 37596*.

daily. 
www.1798centre.com



The inland port of New Ross seen from the west bank of the River Barrow



View across the harbour to Wexford town

### Irish National Heritage Park **3**

Road map D5. Ferrycarrig, Co Wexford.

from Wexford in summer. Tel 053
20733. Mar-Oct: 9:30am6:30pm daily (last adm 5pm); NovFeb: 9:30am-5:30pm (last adm 3pm).
week at Christmas. MarOct. Mar-

marshland near Ferrycarrig, north of Wexford, the Irish National Heritage Park is a bold openair museum. Trails lead through woods to replicas of homesteads, places of worship and burial sites, providing a fascinating lesson on the country's ancient history (see pp32-3). Highlights include the Viking boatyard, complete with raiding ship, and a 7thcentury horizontal watermill.

Built on former

### Wexford @

Road map D5. Co Wexford. 17,000.
Crescent Quay (053
23111). www.southeastireland.com

Wexford's name derives from Waesfjord, a Norse word meaning "estuary of the mud flats". It thrived as a port for centuries but the silting of the harbour in the Victorian era put an end to most sea traffic. Wexford's quays, from where ships once sailed to Bristol, Tenby and Liverpool, are now used mainly by a fleet of humble mussel dredgers.

Wexford is a vibrant place, packed with fine pubs and

boasting a varied arts scene. The town's singular style is often linked to its linguistic heritage. The yola dialect, which was spoken by early settlers, survives in the local pronunciation of certain words.

Wexford retains few traces of its past, but the Viking fishbone street pattern still exists, with narrow alleys fanning off

the meandering Main

Street. Keyser's Lane, linking South Main Street with The Crescent, is a tiny tunnel-like Viking alley which once led to the Norse waterfront. The Normans were responsible for Wexford's town walls. remnants of which include one of the original gateways. Behind it lies Selskar Abbey, the ruin of a 12th-century

Augustinian monastery. King Henry II is said to have done penance here for the murder of Thomas à Becket in 1170.

Sign of a popular Wexford pub

Wexford also has several handsome buildings dating from a later period, including the 18th-century market house, known as the **Cornmarket**, on Main Street. The nearby square, the **Bull Ring**, is notable only for its history: it was used for bull-baiting in Norman times and was the scene of a cruel massacre by Cromwell's men in 1649.

Wexford Opera Festival, held in October, is the leading operatic event in the country. Aficionados praise it for its intimate atmosphere – both during performances and afterwards, when artists and audience mingle together in the pubs: the Centenary

Stores off Main Street is a favourite, though the Sky and the Ground, on South Main Street, is better for traditional music.

#### **Environs**

Skirting the shore just east of the town is the **Wexford Wildfowl Reserve.** It covers 100 ha (250 acres) of reclaimed land and is noted in particular for its geese: over a third of the world's entire population of Greenland whitefronted geese winter here between October and April.

The mudflats also attract large numbers of swans and waders, and provide a rich hunting ground for birds of prey. The birds can be viewed from a number of hides and an observation tower. Another way to enjoy the region's wildlife is to take a boat trip up the Slaney River to Raven Point to see the seal colony.

## Wexford Wildfowl Reserve

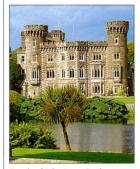
Wexford. *Tel* 053 23129. daily. at weekends

#### **Boat Trips**

Wexford Harbour. **Tel** 053 71626 or 086 860 8328.

### Johnstown Castle 2

Road map D5. Co Wexford. *Tel 053* 42888. to Wexford. Gardens daily. 24 & 25 Dec.



Façade of Johnstown Castle

Johnstown Castle, a splendid Gothic Revival mansion, lies amid gardens and woodland 6 km (4 miles) southwest of Wexford. In state hands since 1945, the castle is closed for refurbishment. However, it is



Vast crescent of sand and shingle beach at Rosslare

possible to visit the Irish Agriculture Museum, housed in the castle's farm buildings. Reconstructions illustrate traditional trades and there is an exhibition on the Famine.

The real glory of Johnstown Castle are the grounds, from the sunken Italian garden to the ornamental lakes. Azaleas and camellias flourish alongside an array of trees including Japanese cedars and redwoods.

Hidden among the dense woods west of the house lurk the ruins of **Rathlannon Castle**, a medieval tower house.

☐ Irish Agriculture Museum Johnstown Castle. Tel. 053 42888. ☐ Apr, May & Sep-Nov: 9am— 12:30pm & 1:30-5pm Mon-Fri, 2-5pm Sat, Sun & public hols; Jun-Aug: 9am— 5pm Mon-Fri, 11am—5pm Sat, Sun & public hols; Nov-Mar: 9am—12:30pm & 1:30-5pm Mon-Fri. 1<sup>∞</sup>☐ ☐ [♣] limited.

### Saltee Islands @

Road map D5. Co Wexford. [ from Wexford to Kilmore Quay: Wed & Sat. from Kilmore Quay: Apr–Sep (weather permitting). Tel 053 29684.

These islands off the south coast of Wexford are a haven for sea birds. Great and Little Saltee together form Ireland's largest bird sanctuary, nurturing an impressive array of birds, from gannets and gulls to puffins and Manx shearwaters. Great Saltee particularly is famous for its colonies of cormorants. It also

has more than 1,000 pairs of guillemots and is a popular stopping-off place for spring and autumn migrations. A bird-monitoring and research programme is in progress, and a close watch is also kept on the colony of grey seals.

The two uninhabited islands are privately owned, but visitors are welcome. Boat trips are run in fine weather from **Kilmore Quay**. These leave in late morning and return mid-afternoon.

Kilmore Quay is a fishing village built on Precambrian gneiss rock – the oldest rock in Ireland. Pretty thatched cottages nestle above a fine sandy beach and the harbour, where a moored lightship houses a **Maritime Museum**. The boat's original fittings are just as interesting as the exhibits.

#### ☐ Guillemot Maritime Museum Kilmore Quay. *Tel* 053 21572

May & Sep: Sat–Sun;
Jun–Aug: daily.



Colony of gannets nesting on the cliffs of Great Saltee Island

### Rosslare @

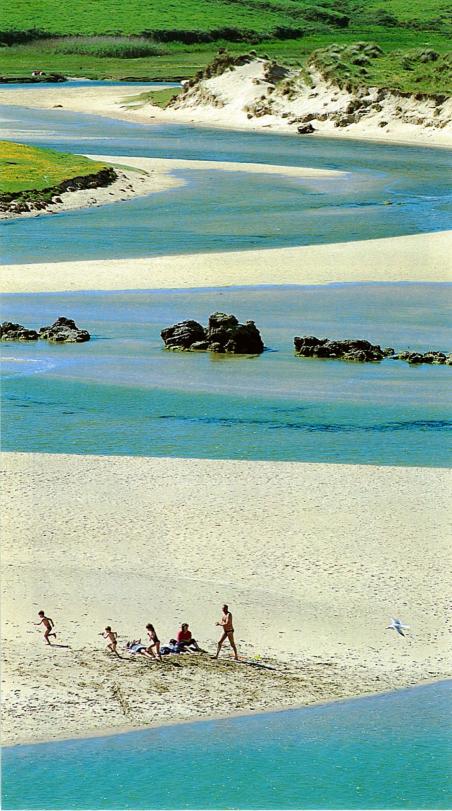
Road map D5. Co Wexford. 1,200. (A) 1,200. (A) May–Sep. www.southeastireland.com

Rosslare replaced Wexford as the area's main port after the decline of the original Viking city harbour. The port is so active today that people tend to associate the name Rosslare more with the ferry terminal for France and Wales than with the town lying 8 km (5 miles) further north.

Rosslare town is one of the sunniest spots in Ireland and draws many holidaymakers. It boasts a fine beach stretching for 9.5 km (6 miles), lively pubs and an excellent golf course fringed by sand dunes. There are good walks north to Rosslare Point.

### Environs

At Tagoat, 6 km (4 miles) south of Rosslare, **Yola Farmstead Folk Park** is a recreated traditional 18th-century village, with thatched roofs and a windmill.



## CORK AND KERRY

CORK · KERRY

agnificent scenery has attracted visitors to this region since Victorian times. Rocky headlands jut out into the Atlantic and colourful fishing villages nestle in the shelter of the bays. County Kerry offers dramatic landscapes and a wealth of prehistoric and early Christian sites, whereas County Cork's gentle charm has enticed many a casual visitor into becoming a permanent resident.

Killarney and its romantic lakes are a powerful magnet for tourists, and so are Cork's attractive coastal towns and villages. Yet the region remains remarkably unspoiled, with a friendly atmosphere and authentic culture still alive in Irishpeaking pockets. There is also

speaking pockets. There is also a long tradition of arts and crafts in the area.

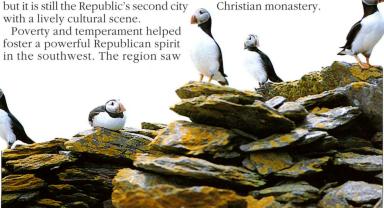
This corner of Ireland used to be the main point of contact with the Continent. In the 17th century, in response to the threat of invasions from France and Spain, the English built a line of forts along the Cork coast, including the massive Charles Fort at Kinsale.

In the 19th century, the city of Cork was an important departure point for people fleeing from the Famine (see p219), with Cobh the main port for emigrants to the New World. Cork's importance as a port has diminished, but it is still the Republic's second city with a lively cultural scene

much guerrilla action in the War of Independence and the subsequent Civil War. In 1920, the centre of Cork city was burned in an uncontrolled act of reprisal by the notorious Black and Tans (see pp44–5).

Kerry is known as "the Kingdom" on account of its tradition of independence and disregard for Dublin rule. The Irish recognize a distinctive Kerry character, with a boisterous sense of living life to the full. They also make Kerrymen the butt of countless jokes.

As well as the friendliest people in Ireland, the region has some of the finest scenery. Cork has lush valleys and a beautiful coast while Kerry is wilder and more mountainous. The islands off the Kerry coast appear bleak and inhospitable, but many were once inhabited. Remote, rocky Skellig Michael, for example, was the site of a 6th-century



Puffins on the island of Skellig Michael off the coast of Kerry

# **Exploring Cork and Kerry**

Killarney is a popular base with tourists for exploring Cork and Kerry, especially for touring the Ring of Kerry and the archaeological remains of the Dingle Peninsula. Despite the changeable weather, the region attracts many visitors who come to see its dramatic scenery and lush vegetation. As you pass through quiet fishing villages and Limerick CARRIGAFOYLE genteel towns, such as Kenmare, you will always CASTLE 1 encounter a friendly welcome from the locals. Tarbert Ballybunnion 2 Ballylongford For the adventurous there are plenty of opportunities to go riding, hiking or Athea Ballyduff cycling. Cork city offers a more Listowel cosmopolitan atmosphere, Ballyheige with its art galleries and Ranna craft shops. ARDFERT Kilki CATHEDRAL ! 3 TRALEE GIO Bay Castlegregory Brandon Peak Anascaul Slieve Mish Mountain GALLARUS Ballydesmo Ballyferriter 5 ORATORY 1 DINGLE R Killorglin KILLARNEY PENINSULA Rathmo Dingle Great Blasket Glenbeigh LAKES OF Bland KILLARNEY Muckre Mangerton Mountain VALENTIA ISLAND Kilgarvan Derreendarragh Portmagee 12 KENMARE Ballinge Ballinskelligs Waterville Killahunane Lauragh Glengarriff Ardgroom THE SKELLIGS Adrigole Island Bantry BANTRY BAY **BBANTRY** HOUSE # Durse Island Ballydehob The Bull Toormore Crookhaven MIZEN HEAD BALTIMO Sherkin Islan

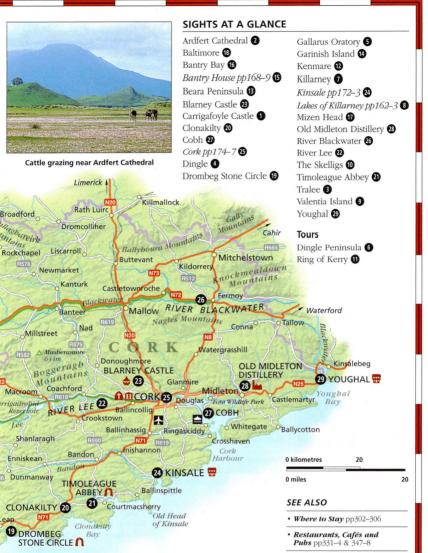


Kissing the Blarney Stone at Blarney Castle near Cork

#### **GETTING AROUND**

To explore the region a car is essential. The N22 connects Cork, Killarney and Tralee while the N71 follows the coastline via Clonakilty, Bantry and on to Killarney. In the more remote parts the road signs may only be written in Irish. Killarney is the base for organized coach tours of the area. The train service from Cork to Dublin is efficient, and trains also connect Killarney with Dublin and Cork, but you may have to change trains en route. Buses run throughout the region, but services to the smaller sights may be infrequent.

Clear Island



#### KEY

Major road

Secondary road

Minor road

Scenic route

— Main railway

--- Minor railway

Trinior runivay

County border

△ Summit



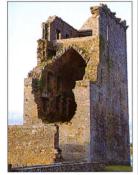
Newman's Mall in the quaint village of Kinsale



Ardfert Cathedral and the ruins of Teampall na Hoe and Teampall na Griffin

# Carrigafoyle Castle **1**

Road map B5. Co Kerry. to Listowel.



Ruined keep of Carrigafoyle Castle

High above the Shannon estuary, just west of Ballylongford, this 15th-century castle belonged to the O'Connor clan, who ruled much of northern Kerry. The English besieged or sacked it repeatedly but the body blow was delivered in 1649 by Cromwellian forces (see p39). The ruins include a keep and walled bawn, with romantic views of the estuary from the top of the tower.

### Ardfert Cathedral 2

Road map A5. Co Kerry. 📄 to Ardfert.

Tel 066 713 4711. Tel Easter—Sep:
daily; rest of year on request.

This complex of churches is linked to the cult of St. Brendan the Navigator (see p213), who was born nearby

in 484 and founded a monastery here. The ruined cathedral dates back to the 12th century and retains a delicate Romanesque doorway and blind arcading. The south transept is now restored and houses an exhibition of the history of the site. In the graveyard stand the remains of a Romanesque nave-and-chancel church, Teampall na Hoe, and a late Gothic chapel, Teampall na Griffin. The latter is named after the curious griffins carved beside an interior window.

A short walk away are the ruins of a Franciscan friary. It was founded by Thomas Fitzmaurice in 1253, but the cloisters and south chapel date from the 15th century.

#### **Environs**

Just northwest of Ardfert is **Banna Strand**. Irish patriot Roger Casement landed here in 1916 on a German U-boat, bringing in rifles for the Easter Rising (see pp44–5). He was arrested as soon as he landed and a

memorial stands on the site of his capture. This beach was also used for the filming of David Lean's *Ryan's Daughter* (1970).

### Tralee

Road map B5. Co Kerry. M 23,000.

Ashe Memorial Hall,
Denny St (066 7121288). Thu.

www.corkkerry.ie

Host to the renowned Rose of Tralee International Festival (see p49), Tralee has made great strides in promoting its cultural and leisure facilities. The town's main attraction is Kerry County Museum. Its theme park, "Kerry the Kingdom", offers a show on Kerry scenery and a display of archaeological finds and interactive models. The "Geraldine Experience" brings one back to medieval times.

Also based in Tralee is the Siamsa Tíre National Folk Theatre of Ireland, a great ambassador for Irish culture.



Steam train on the narrow gauge railway between Tralee and Blennerville, with Blennerville Windmill in the background

Traditional song and dance performances take place here throughout the summer.

Just outside Tralee is the authentic Blennerville Windmill. Built in 1800, it is Ireland's largest working mill and one of Tralee's most popular attractions. The Steam Railway connects Blennerville with Tralee along a narrow gauge track. The train also runs from Ballyard Station to the windmill.

Siamsa Tíre
Town Park. Tel 066 712 3055. of for performances mid-Apr-Oct.

■ Steam Railway
Ballyard Station. *Tel* 066 712 1064.

May–Sep: daily (ring to check times).

### Dingle 4

This once remote Irishspeaking town is today a thriving fishing port and an increasingly popular tourist



Gallarus Oratory, a dry-stone early Christian church

centre. Brightly painted craft shops and cafés abound, often with slightly hippy overtones.

Dingle Bay is attractive with a somewhat ramshackle harbour lined with fishing trawlers. Along the quayside are lively bars offering music and seafood. The harbour is home to Dingle's biggest star: Fungie, the dolphin, who has been a permanent resident since 1983 and can be visited by boat or on swimming trips.

Although Dingle has few architectural attractions, it makes an engaging base for exploring the archaeological remains on the Dingle Peninsula (see pp158–9).

### Gallarus Oratory 6

**Road map** A5. Co Kerry. 
to Dingle. **Tel** 066 915 5333.

Shaped like an upturned boat, this miniature church overlooks Smerwick harbour. Gallarus was built some time between the 6th and 9th centuries and is the best preserved early Christian church in Ireland. It represents the apogee of dry-stone corbelling, using techniques first developed by Neolithic tomb-makers. The stones were laid at a slight angle, lower on the outside than the inside, allowing water to run off.



Fishing trawlers moored alongside the quay at Dingle

# A Tour of the Dingle Peninsula 6

# GUINNESS Mar is gnách



Pub sign, Ballyferriter The Dingle Peninsula offers some of Ireland's most beautiful scenery. To the north rises the towering Brandon Mountain, while the west coast has some spectacular seascapes. A drive around the area, which takes at least half a day, reveals fascinating antiquities ranging from Iron Age stone forts to inscribed stones, early Christian oratories and beehive huts. These are sometimes found on private land, so you may be asked for a small fee by the farmer to

see them. Some parts of the peninsula – especially the more remote areas – are still Gaelic speaking, so many road signs are written only in Irish.



Riasc (An Riasc) ①
This excavated monastic settlement dates from the 7th century. The enclosure contains the remains of an oratory, several crosses and an inscribed pillar stone (see p.243).

# (Baile ar The attr village cottage and a cultu

Ballyferriter (Baile an Fheirtéaraigh) 6

The attractions of this friendly village include the pastel-coloured cottages, Louis Mulcahy's pottery and a museum featuring the cultural heritage of the area.

### Blasket Centre

(Ionad an Bhlascaoid) (5)

Overlooking Blasket Sound, the centre explains the literature, language and way of life of the inhabitants of the Blasket Islands. The islanders moved to the mainland in 1953.



Mount Eagle

DINGLE BAY



Dunmore Head (Ceann an Dúin Mhoir) (4)

Mainland Ireland's most westerly point offers dramatic views of the Blaskets.

#### Slea Head (Ceann Sléibe) ③

As you round the Slea Head promontory, the Blasket Islands come into full view. The sculpture of the Crucifixion beside the road is known locally as the Cross (An Cros).

### KEY

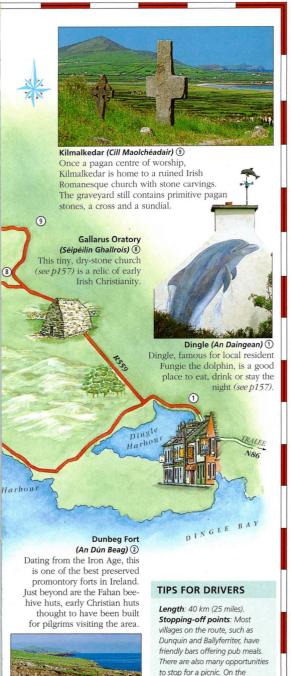
Tour route
Other roads

Viewpoint

0 kilometres

0 miles

1





Jaunting cars waiting to take visitors to sights around Killarney

### Killarney 🛭

Road map B5. Co Kerry. M 9,500. Beech Rd (064 31633). Sat. Www.corkkerry.ie

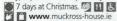
Killarnev is often derided as "a tourist town" but this has not dented its cheerful atmosphere. The infectious Kerry humour is personified by the wise-cracking jarveys whose families have run jaunting cars (pony and trap rides) here for generations. The town gets busy in summer but has much to offer, with shops open until 10pm in summer, several excellent restaurants, and a few prestigious hotels around the lake and the heights. From the town visitors can explore the sights around the Lakes of Killarnev (see pp162-3) and the surrounding heather-covered hills.

#### **Environs**

Overlooking the lakes and a short drive from Killarney is Muckross House. This imposing mansion was built in 1843 in Elizabethan style. Inside, the elegant rooms are decorated with period furnishings. There is also a museum of Kerry Life, with displays on the history of southwest Ireland, and a craft centre. The landscaped gardens are very beautiful in spring when the rhododendrons and azaleas are in bloom. A short walk away is Muckross Farm, which still uses traditional farming techniques.

**₩** Muckross House

4 km (2.5 miles) S of Killarney. *Tel* 064 31440. July–Aug: 9am–7pm daily; Sep–Jun: 9am–6pm daily.

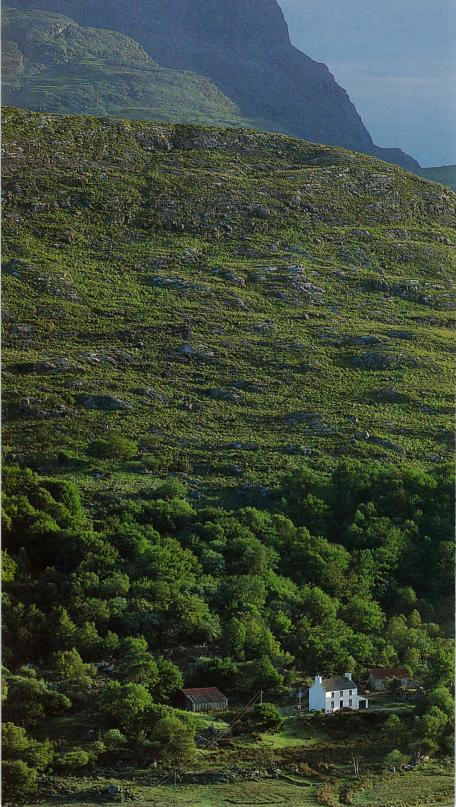


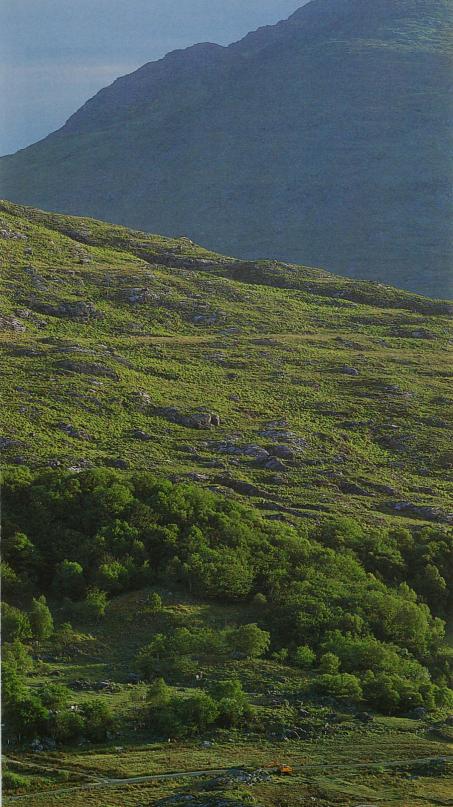
winding coast road around Slea

Head stop only at the safe and

clearly marked coastal viewing

points. (See also pp387-9.)





## Lakes of Killarney o



Renowned for its splendid scenery, the area is one of Ireland's most popular tourist attractions. The three lakes are contained within Killarney National Park. Although the landscape is dotted with ruined castles and abbeys, the lakes are the

Fruit of the strawberry tree focus of attention: the moody watery scenery is subject to subtle shifts of light and colour. The area has entranced many artists and writers including Thackeray, who praised "a precipice covered with a thousand trees ... and other mountains rising as far as we could see". In autumn, the bright red fruits of the strawberry tree colour the shores of the lakes.



### Meeting of the Waters

This beauty spot, best seen from Dinis Island, is where the waters from the Upper Lake meet Muckross Lake and Lough Leane. At the Old Weir Bridge, boats shoot the rapids.

> Long Range River



#### Torc Waterfall

The Owengarriff River cascades through the wooded Friars' Glen into Muckross Lake. A pretty path winds up to the top of this 18-m (60-ft) high waterfall, revealing views of Torc Mountain.

Muckross Abbey was founded by the Franciscans in 1448, but was burnt down by Cromwellian forces in 1653.

Killarney (see p159) is the main town from which tourists visit the sights around the lakes.

N22 to Tralee (see pp156-7) -



Ross Castle, built around 1420, was the last stronghold under Irish control to be taken by Cromwellian forces in 1653.



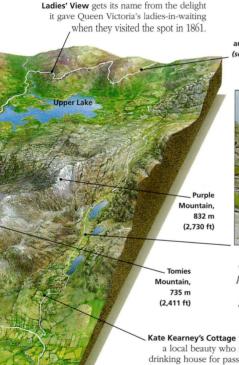
#### **★** Muckross House

The 19th-century manor (see p159) enjoys a lovely location overlooking the lakes. Visit the wildlife centre for an introduction to the flora and fauna of the National Park.



### **Upper Lake**

This narrow lake is the smallest of the three lakes. It flows into the Long Range River to the Meeting of the Waters.



N71 to Moll's Gap and Kenmare (see pp164–6)

### VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Road map B5. Killarnev. Co Kerry. X Kerry (066 976 4644). 🖪 🗐 National Park 9am-6pm (6:30pm Jun-Aug) daily (for access by car). Rillarney (064 31633). Muckross House Tel 064 31440. Jul-Aug: 9am-7pm daily; Sep-Jun: 9am-6pm daily (last tour 4:45pm). 7 days over Christmas. 16 6 11 1 Ross Castle Tel 064 35851. mid-Mar-mid-Nov: daily, 189 19 obligatory. Efrom Ross Castle: Pride of the Lakes (064 32638): daily (weather permitting); The Lily of Killarney (064 31068): Mar-Oct. Kate Kearney's Cottage Tel 064 44146. Easter-Sep: 9am-midnight daily; Oct-Easter: 9:30am-6pm. 11



### **★** Gap of Dunloe

Glaciers carved this dramatic mountain pass which is popular with walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The route through the gap offers fabulous views of the boulderstrewn gorge and three small lakes.

Kate Kearney's Cottage was home to a local beauty who ran an illegal drinking house for passing travellers in the mid-19th century.



R562 to Killorglin (see pp164–5)

0 kilometres 2

### STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Gap of Dunloe
- ★ Muckross House

### Lough Leane The largest lake is

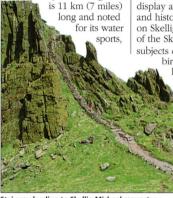
dotted with uninhabited islands
and fringed with
wooded slopes.
Boat trips run
between Ross Castle
and Innisfallen.



### Valentia Island Output Description:

Road map A5. Co Kerry. 10 to Caherciveen. 11 Caherciveen (066 947 2589/064 31633). www.corkkerry.ie

Although it feels like the mainland, Valentia is an island, albeit linked by a causeway to Portmagee. It



Stairway leading to Skellig Michael monastery

seascapes and views from Geokaun Mountain. Valentia is also popular for its proximity to the Skellig Islands which lie around 15 km (10 miles) southwest of the Iveragh Peninsula.

The Skellig Experience
Centre, near the causeway
linking Valentia to the mainland, houses an audiovisual
display about the construction
and history of the monastery
on Skellig Michael, the largest
of the Skellig Islands. Other
subjects covered include sea
birds and the marine

life around the islands, a reminder that the Skellig cliffs lie underwater for a depth of 50 m (165 ft), providing a habitat for giant basking sharks, dolphins and turtles. The centre also operates cruises around the islands.

The main village on Valentia is **Knightstown**, which offers accommodation and lively pubs with music and dancing.

The first transatlantic cable was laid from the southwest point of the island to Newfoundland, Canada, in 1866.

⚠ Skellig Experience Centre Valentia Island. Tel 066 947 6306.

☐ late-Mar-Sep: daily. 
☐

# The Skelligs **@**

Road map A6. Co Kerry. Amid-Mar-Oct: from Valentia Island. Tel 066 947 6214 (ring a few days ahead).

Skellig Michael, also known as Great Skellig, is an inhospitable pinnacle of rock rising out of the Atlantic and covering an area of 17 ha (44 acres). Perched on a ledge almost 218 m (714 ft) above sea level and reached by an amazing 1,000-year-old



stairway is an isolated early Christian monastery. Monks settled for solitude on Skellig Michael during the 6th century, building a cluster of six corbelled beehive cells and two boat-shaped oratories. These dry-stone structures are still standing, despite being raked by storms over the centuries. The monks were totally self-sufficient, trading eggs, feathers and seal meat with passing boats in return for cereals, tools and animal skins. The skins were needed to produce the vellum on which the monks copied their religious manuscripts. They remained on this bleak island until the 12th century, when they retreated to the Augustinian priory at Ballinskelligs on the mainland.

Today the only residents on Skellig Michael are the thousands of sea birds which nest



Gannets flying around the precipitous cliffs of Little Skellig

and breed on the high cliffs, including storm petrels, puffins and Manx shearwaters. The huge breeding colonies are protected from predators by the sea and rocky shores.

Slightly closer to the mainland is Little Skellig. Covering an area of 7 ha (17 acres). the island has steep cliffs. Home to a variety of sea birds, it has one of the largest colonies of gannets (about 22,000 breeding A cruiser from Valentia Island circles the Skelligs but does not dock. Except for a pier on Skellig Michael, there are no proper landing stages on the islands. This is to discourage visitors from disturbing the birdlife, fragile plant cover and archaeological remains.

Atlantic gales permitting, local fishermen may run unofficial trips around the islands from Portmagee or Ballinskelligs, during the summer.



### Killarney 1

Visitors touring the Ring of Kerry usually start and finish here. The route passes lovely views of the Lakes of Killarney (see pp162-3).



of this charming town which also has a quaint village green.

0 kilometres 0 miles



#### TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Length: 180 km (112 miles). Stopping off points: Many towns such as Killorglin and Caherciveen offer pub snacks. Finish the day in one of the excellent gourmet restaurants in Kenmare (see also pp387-9).



Lace making at Kenmar

### Kenmare @

Road map B5. Co Kerry. 🔝 1,400. May—Sep: Main St (064 41233). Wed. www.corkkerry.ie

This town, on the mouth of the River Sheen, was founded in 1670 by William Petty, Cromwell's surveyor general. However, Kenmare's appearance owes more to his descendant, the first Marquess of Lansdowne who, in 1775, made it a model landlord's town of neat stone façades with decorative plasterwork.

Today Kenmare is renowned for its traditional lace. During the famine years, nuns from the local convent, St Clare's, introduced lace making to create work for the women and girls. Other attractions include the fine hotels (see power) and gourmet restaurants (page). The town is also an

excellent base for exploring the Beara Peninsula and the Ring of Kerry (see pp164–5).

Set in a riverside glade off Market Street is the **Druid's Circle**, a prehistoric ring of 15 stones associated with human sacrifice.

### Beara Peninsula **®**

Road map A6. Co Cork & Co Kerry.

to Glengarriff (daily) &
Castletownbere (Mon, Wed, Fri & Sun).
Glengarriff (027 63084).

Dotted with sparsely populated fishing villages surrounded by bleak moorland, this peninsula is remote. It used to be a refuge for smugglers, with the Irish getting the better deal in their exchange of pilchards for contraband French brandy.

The peninsula offers some spectacular scenery and wonderful walking country. From the Healy Pass, which cuts a jagged path across the spine of the Caha Mountains, there are some fine views of Bantry Bay and the rugged landscape of West Cork. To the west of the pass is Hungry Hill, the highest mountain in the Caha range and popular with hill walkers.

Encircled by the Caha and Slieve Miskish Mountains is **Castletownbere**, the main town on the peninsula. This sheltered port was once a haven for smugglers, but is now awash with foreign fishing trawlers. McCarthey's

Bar on Town Square features an authentic matchmaking booth, where Cork families used to agree marriage terms until a generation ago.

West of Castletownbere stands the shell of **Puxley Mansion**, home of the Puxley family who owned the mines at nearby **Allihies**. Centre of the copper-mining district until the 1930s, it is now a desolate place, with tall Cornish-style chimneys and piles of ochrecoloured spoil; beware of unguarded mine shafts.

From the tip of the peninsula a cable car travels across to **Dursey Island**, with its ruined castle and colonies of sea birds. Licensed to carry three passengers and one cow, the cable car swings across the strait, offering views of Bull, Cow and Calf islands.

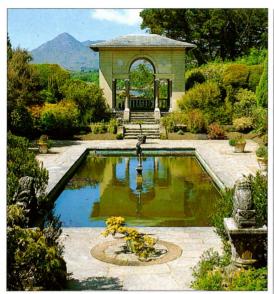
From the headland the R757 road back to Kenmare passes through the pretty villages of **Eyeries**, noted for its brightly painted cottages and crafts, and **Ardgroom**, a centre for mussel farming and a base for exploring the scenic glacial valley around **Glenbeg Lough**.

### Garinish Island

Also known as Ilnacullin, this small island was turned into an exotic garden in 1910 by Harold Peto for Annan Bryce,



View of Caha Mountains from the Healy Pass, Beara Peninsula



Italianate garden with lily pool and folly on Garinish Island

a Belfast businessman. Framed by views of Bantry Bay, the gardens are landscaped with Neo-Classical follies and planted with rich subtropical flora. The microclimate and peaty soil provide the damp, warm conditions needed for these ornamental plants to flourish.

Exotic shrubberies abound especially during the summer. In May and June, there are beautiful displays of camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons. There is also a New Zealand fernery and a Japanese rockery, as well as a rare collection of Bonsai trees. A Martello tower crowns the island and among the follies are a clock tower and a Grecian temple.

The centrepiece is a colonnaded Italianate garden, with a Classical folly and ornamental lily pool. Much of its charm resides in the contrast between the cultivated lushness of the garden and the glimpses of wild seascape and barren mountains beyond. An added attraction of the boat trip across to this Gulf Stream paradise is the chance to see cavorting seals in Bantry Bay.

### Bantry House 6

### Bantry Bay 6

Road map A6. Co Cork. 🔝 to Bantry and Glengarriff 👔 Mar—Oct: The Square, Bantry (027 50229).

www.bantry.ie Bamboo Park
www.bamboo-park.com

Bantry Bay encompasses the resorts of **Bantry** and **Glengarriff**. It is also a springboard for trips to Mizen Head and the Beara Peninsula.

Bantry nestles beneath the hills which run down to the bay. Just offshore you can see Whiddy Island, the original home of the White family, who moved to Bantry House in the early 18th century. Further along is Bere Island, a British base until World War II.

Glengarriff at the head the bay, exudes an air of Victorian gentility with its neatly painted shopfronts and craft shops. On the coast is the Eccles Hotel, a haunt of Queen Victoria and where George Bernard Shaw supposedly wrote *Saint Joan*.

Bamboo Park in Glengarriff is a unique, exotic garden containing 30 different species of bamboo as well as palms and other tropical plants.

### Mizen Head

Road map A6. Co Cork.

Town Hall, North
St. Skibbereen (028 21766).

Mizen Head, the most southwesterly tip of Ireland, has steep cliffs, often lashed by storms. In a lighthouse, Mizen Head Visitors' Centre is reached by a bridge. From the car park, a headland walk takes in views of cliffs and Atlantic breakers. The sandy beaches of nearby Barley Cove attract bathers and walkers; to the east is Crookhaven, a pretty yachting harbour. From here, a walk to Brow Head offers views of the lighthouse.

Mizen Head can be reached either from Bantry via Durrus or from the market town of **Skibbereen**, on the R592, via the charming crafts centre of **Ballydehob** and the village of **Schull**. Trips to Clear Island (*see p170*) leave from Schull.



Rocky cliffs at Mizen Head

# Bantry House 6

Bantry House has been the home of the White family, formerly Earls of Bantry, since 1739. The original Queen Anne house was built around 1700, but the north façade overlooking the bay was a later addition. Inside there is an eclectic collection of art and furnishings brought from all over

William and Europe by the 2nd Earl of Bantry.

Mary clock in In the carriage house and stable block is the French Armada

Centre, which explains the events surrounding Wolfe Tone's attempted invasion in 1796.



#### Gobelin Room

The subject of this 18thcentury Gobelin tapestry is The Bath of Cupid and Psyche. The room also contains an early 19thcentury piano.



#### The Rose Garden,

laid out in the early 18th century, is, in the words of the 1st Earl of Bantry, "a parterre after the English manner". To car park

Tearoom

and shop



Richard White, 1st Earl of Bantry, played a leading role in defending Ireland against an attempted invasion by Wolfe Tone and the United Irishmen (see pp40–41). On 16 December 1796, Tone sailed from Brest in Brittany with a fleet

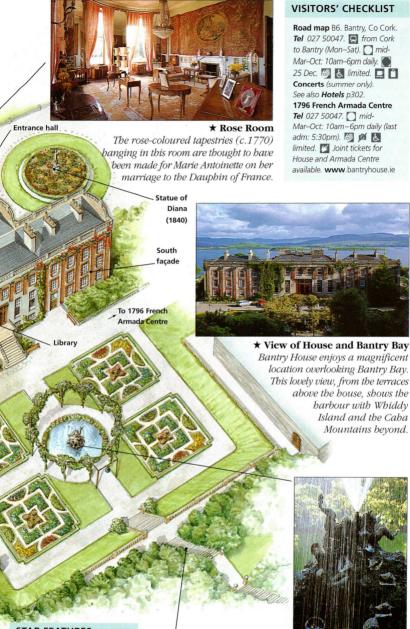


off 43 French ships bound for Ireland. White chose strategic spots around Bantry Bay and mustered volunteers to fight. His efforts proved unnecessary as the French fleet was forced back by bad weather. Nonetheless, White was rewarded with a peerage by George III for his "spirited conduct and important services". In 1801 he was made Viscount Bantry, becoming Earl of Bantry in 1816.

#### **★** Dining Room

This room is dominated by portraits of King George III and Queen Charlotte by court painter Allan Ramsay. The Spanish chandelier is decorated with Meissen china flowers.

North façade



#### STAR FEATURES

- ★ Dining Room
- ★ Rose Room
- ★ View of House and Bantry Bay

The steps, known as the "Staircase to the Sky", lead to a series of terraces with fabulous views over the house and across the bay.

#### Italian Garden

Inspired by the Boboli Gardens in Florence, this garden encircles a pool decorated in Classical Grotesque style. It was designed in the early 1850s by the 2nd Earl.

### Baltimore @

Road map B6. Co Cork. 220. (028 20218); to Cape Clear Island (028 39159).

Baltimore's most bizarre claim to fame dates back to 1631 when more than 100 citizens were carried off as slaves by Algerian pirates. Now that the threat of being kidnapped has gone, this village appeals to the yachting fraternity and island-hoppers. Like neighbouring Schull and Castletownshend, the town bustles with summer festivals.

Overlooking the harbour is a ruined 15th-century castle, once the stronghold of the O'Driscoll clan. Also worth a visit are the seafood pubs. including Bushe's Bar, an atmospheric inn hung with nautical memorabilia. Behind the village, cliff walks lead to splendid views of Carbery's Hundred Isles – mere specks on Roaringwater Bay. Baltimore Beacon is an important marker for boats in the bay.

A short ferry ride away is Sherkin Island with its sandy beaches in the west, ruined 15th-century abbey, marine station and pubs. The ferry ride to Cape Clear Island is more dramatic, as the boat weaves between sharp black rocks to this remote, Irishspeaking island, noted for its bird observatory in the North Harbour. There are some spectacular views of the mainland from the island.



Distinctive white beacon for boats approaching Baltimore



### Drombeg Stone Circle @

Road map B6. Co Cork. 🗐 to Skibbereen or Clonakilty.

Situated on the Glandore road 16 km (10 miles) west of Clonakilty, Drombeg is the finest of the many stone circles in County Cork. Dating back to about 150 BC, this circle of 17 standing stones is 9 m (30 ft) in diameter. At the winter solstice, the rays of the setting sun fall on the flat altar stone which faces the entrance to the circle, marked by two upright stones.

Nearby is a small stream with a Stone Age cooking pit (fulacht fiadh), similar to one at Craggaunowen (see p190). A fire was made in the hearth and hot stones from the fire were dropped into the cooking pit to heat the water. Once the water boiled, the meat, usually venison, was added.

### Clonakilty **20**

Road map B6. Co Cork. 3,000. 25 Ashe Street (023 33226).

Founded as an English outpost around 1588, this market town has a typically hearty West Cork atmosphere. The West Cork Regional Museum, housed in an old schoolhouse, remembers the town's industrial heritage. A number of quayside buildings, linked to the town's industrial past, have

been restored. Particularly pleasant is the Georgian nucleus of Emmet Square.

Until the 19th century Clonakilty was a noted linen producer. Today, it is renowned for its rich black puddings, handpainted Irish signs and traditional music pubs.

Near the town centre is a model village, depicting the town as it was in the 1940s. Just east of town is the reconstructed Lios-nagCon Ring Fort, with earthworks. huts and souterrains (see p20). A causeway links Clonakilty

Sign for Clonakilty black pudding to Inchydoney beach.

### **M** West Cork Regional Museum

Western Rd. Jun-Sep: daily (except Mon & Wed). 169 &

↑ Lios-na-gCon Ring Fort Tel 023 33302. Apr-Oct: daily. www.liosnagcon.com

### **Timoleague** Abbey @

Road map B6. Co Cork. 🗐 to Clonakilty or Courtmacsherry. daily.

Timoleague Abbey enjoys a waterside setting overlooking an inlet where the Argideen estuary opens into Courtmacsherry Bay. Founded around the late 13th century, the abbey is a ruined Franciscan friary. The buildings have been extended at various times. The earliest section is the chancel of the Gothic church. The most recent addition, the 16thcentury tower, was added by the Franciscan Bishop of Ross. The friary was ransacked by the English in 1642 but much of significance remains, including the church, infirmary, fine lancet windows, refectory and a walled courtvard in the west. There are also sections of cloisters and wine cellars. In keeping with Franciscan tradition, the complex is plain

such restraint belied the friars' penchant for high living: the friary prospered on trade in Spanish wines, easily delivered thanks to its position on the then navigable creek.

Lancet window in ruined

church at Timoleague Abbey

### River Lee 2

to the point of

austerity. Yet

**Road map** B6. Co Cork. to Cork. Cork. Cork (021 425 5100).

Carving a course through farm- and woodland to Cork city (see pp.174–7), the River Lee begins its journey in the lake of the enchanting Gougane Barra Park. The shores of the lake are linked by a causeway to Holy Island, where St Finbarr, the patron saint of Cork, founded a monastery. The Feast of St Finbarr, on 25 September,

signals celebrations that climax in a pilgrimage to the island on the following Sunday.

The Lee flows through several Irish-speaking market towns and

villages. Some, such as Ballingeary, with its fine lake-side views, have good angling. The town is also noted for its Irish language college. Further east, near the town of Inchigeela, stand the ruins of Carrignacurra Castle. Further downstream lies

the Gearagh, an alluvial stretch of marsh and woods which has been designated a wildlife sanctuary.

The river then passes through the Sullane valley, home of the thriving market town of Macroom. The hulk of a medieval castle, with its restored entrance, lies just off the main square. In 1654, Cromwell granted the castle to Sir William Penn. His son, who was to found the American state of Pennsylvania, also lived here for a time.

Between Macroom and Cork, the Lee Valley passes through a hydroelectric power scheme surrounded by artificial lakes, water meadows and wooded banks. Just outside Cork, on the south bank of the river is **Ballincollig**, home to the fascinating Royal Gunpowder Mills museum (see p177).

### Blarney Castle 3

Road map B5. Blarney, Co Cork.

Tel 021 438 5252. to Cork. to Blarney. daily. 24 & 25 Dec.

By grounds only, no charge. www.blarneycastle.ie

Visitors from all over the world flock to this ruined castle to see the legendary Blarney Stone. Kissing the stone is a long-standing tradition, intended to confer a magical eloquence. It is set in the wall below the castle battlements and, in order to kiss it, the visitor is grasped by the feet and suspended backwards under the parapet. Little remains of the castle today except the keep, built in 1446 by Dermot McCarthy. Its design is typical of a 15thcentury tower house (see p20). The vaulted first floor was once the Great Hall. To reach the battlements you need to climb the 127 steps to the top of the keep.

The castle grounds offer some attractive walks, including a grove of ancient yew trees and limestone rock formations at Rock Close.

Blarney House, a Scottish baronial mansion and the residence of the Colthurst family since the 18th century, is not open to the public.

A short walk from the castle, Blarney has a pretty village green with welcoming pubs and a number of craft shops. The **Blarney Woollen Mills**, selling quality garments and souvenirs, is well worth a visit.



Battlemented keep and ruined towers of Blarney Castle

# Street-by-Street: Kinsale @



Old office sign in Kinsale

For many visitors to Ireland, Kinsale heads the list of places to see. One of the prettiest small towns in Ireland, it has had a long and chequered history. The defeat of the Irish forces and their Spanish allies in the Battle of Kinsale in 1601

signified the end of the old Gaelic order. An important naval base in the 17th and 18th centuries, Kinsale today is a popular yachting centre. It is also famous for the quality of its cuisine - the town's annual

Festival of Fine Food attracts food lovers from far and wide. As well as its many wonderful restaurants, the town has pubs and wine bars to cater for all tastes.



courthouse, this museum includes a toll board listing local taxes for 1788



# **CHARLES FORT**

The star-shaped fort is 3 km (2 miles) east of town in Summercove, but can be reached by taking the signposted coastal walk from the quayside, past the village of Scilly. The fort was built in the 1670s by the English to protect Kinsale harbour against foreign naval forces but, because of its vulnerability to land attack, was taken during the siege of 1690 by William of Orange's army. Nonetheless, it remained in service until 1922 when the British forces left the town and handed it over to the Irish Government. Charles Fort remains one of the finest remaining examples of a star-shaped bastion fort in Europe.



Walls and bastions of Charles Fort



Desmond Castle was built around 1500. It is

known locally as the

"French Prison".

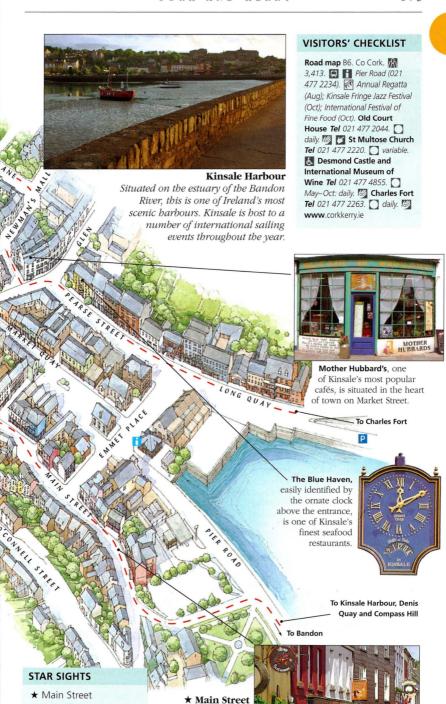
This much-altered Norman church is named after an obscure 6thcentury saint and marks the centre of the medieval town.



	0 metres	50
	0 yards	50
EY		

Parking Tourist information

Suggested route



Many of Kinsale's

drinking places can be found on this picturesque street.

best eating and

★ Old Market House

★ St Multose Church

### Cork @



Sign outside a Cork pub

Cork city derives its name from the marshy land on the banks of the River Lee – its Irish name Corcaigh means marsh - on which St Finbarr founded a monastery around AD 650. The narrow alleys, waterways and Georgian architecture give the city a Continental feel. Since the 19th century, when Cork was a base for the National Fenian movement (see p43), the city has had a reputation

for political rebelliousness. Today this mood is reflected in the city's attitude to the arts and its bohemian spirit, much in evidence at the lively October jazz festival.

#### ♠ St Ann's Shandon

Church St. Tel 021 450 5906.

daily. 25 Dec. 6 kmited.
This famous Cork landmark stands on the hilly slopes of the city, north of the River Lee. Built in 1722, the church has a facade made of limestone on two sides, and of red sandstone on the other two. The steeple is topped by a weather vane in the shape of a salmon. The clock face is known by the locals as the "four-faced liar" because, up until 1986 when it was repaired, each face showed slightly different times. Visitors can climb the tower and, for a small fee, ring the famous Shandon bells.

### The Butter Exchange

O'Connell Square, Shandon. Tel 021 430 0600. Mar–Oct: 10am–5pm daily.

This museum tells the story of Ireland's most important food export and the world's largest butter market. The exchange opened in 1770 and was where butter was graded before it was exported to the rest of the world. By 1892 it

was exporting around 500,000 casks of butter a year.

The exchange shut in 1924. Part of the building was re-opened in the 1980s to house the Shandon Craft Centre. Here visitors can watch craft workers, such as crystal cutters and weavers, at work.

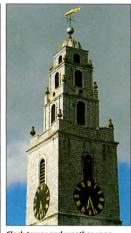
#### **M** Crawford Municipal Art Gallery

Emmet Place. Tel 021 427 3377.

9am-5pm Mon-Sat. public hols. 👃 🚻 🗖 🗂 www.crawfordartgallery.com The red brick and limestone building that houses Cork's major art gallery dates back to 1724. Built as the city's original custom house, it became a school of design in 1850. In 1884, a wellknown art patron, William Horatio Crawford, extended the building to accommodate studios and sculpture

The gallery houses some fine examples of late

and picture galleries.



Clock tower and weather vane of St Ann's Shandon



### SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Butter Exchange (2) Crawford Art Gallery 4 Elizabeth Fort (10) English Market (6) Father Mathew Statue 3 National Monument (7) Parliament Bridge (8) Red Abbey 9 St Ann's Shandon (1)

St Finbarr's Cathedral (1) St Mary's Dominican Church 3



Unhappy Judas (1911) by Harry Clarke, Crawford Art Gallery

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp302-306 and pp331-4

19th- and early 20th-century Irish art including paintings by Jack Yeats. There are also three fine windows by Ireland's foremost stainedglass artist, Harry Clarke (1889-1931).

Another attraction is the small collection by British artists and international works by artists such as Joán Miró and Georges Rouault.

The gallery is well known for its excellent restaurant which is run by the Ballymaloe cookery school (see p361), the exponents of authentic Irish cooking with a modern twist.

St Mary's Pro-Cathedra

St Ann's Shandon

QUAY

Triskel P

National 7

Elizabeth COVE

SULLIVAN'S QUAY

TOWER STREET

Centre

P

Opera

6 English Market

Church

(8) Parliam

Red Abbey 9

ABL.
EVERGREEN STREET

Bridge GEORGE

South Chapel

kin



Ringaskiddy Ferry

#### VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Road map C5. Co Cork.

136,000. A 6 km (4 miles) S of Cork (021 431 3131).

Kent Station (021 450 6766). Parnell Place (021 450 8188).

Tourist House, Grand Parade (021 425 5100). Cork Jazz Festival (Oct); Cork Film Festival (Oct). www.corkkerry.ie

Burges, it is an exuberant triple-spired edifice built in Gothic Revival style, and decorated with stone tracery. Inside, the painted and gilded apse ceiling shows Christ in Glory surrounded by angels. The stained-glass windows below tell the story of Christ's life.

### ff Cork City Gaol

Convent Avenue, Sunday's Well. Tel 021 430 5022. O daily. 💋 🎉

www.corkcitygaol.com A pretty, 20-minute walk west of the city centre leads to the restored City Gaol, complete with its furnished cells. An exhibition traces the lives of individual inmates imprisoned here during the 19th and 20th centuries. Conditions were miserable and, for punishment, prisoners were made to run on a human treadmill that would normally be used to grind grain.

The Radio Museum Experience is also housed in this building and chronicles the development of radio in Ireland and across the world.





0 metres 250

0 yards

250

South Channel of the River Lee, looking towards Parliament Bridge

### **Exploring Cork**

One of Cork's great attractions is that it is a city built on water. Its heart lies on an island between two arms of the River Lee, and many of today's streets were in fact once waterways lined with warehouses and merchants' residences. Although the Dutch canalside appearance has faded, picturesque quays and bridges remain. Steep lanes rise to the north and south of the central island to the city's 19th-century suburbs, offering wonderful views of the city and its fine buildings.

### The Quays

Although the river now plays only a minor part in the city's economy, much of Cork's commercial activity still takes place around the Quays (pronounced "kays" in the Cork accent). The South Mall, which covers an arm of the River Lee, was a waterway until the late 18th century. Boats were once moored at the foot of a series of stone steps, some of which are still intact today. These led to merchants' domestic quarters above. The arches below led to warehouses where goods were unloaded. Near South Mall is

Parliament Bridge,

built in 1806 to commemorate the Act of
Union (see p42). It is an elegant, single-arched bridge which is made mainly from limestone. Designed by William Hargrave, it replaced a bridge on the same site which was damaged by a flood in 1804. A short walk away, on Sullivan's Quay, is the Quay Co-Op, a popular vegetarian restaurant and meeting place.

Grand Parade Para

From Sullivan's Quay an elegant footbridge, built in 1985, crosses the river to the south end of Grand Parade.

#### Grand Parade and St Patrick's Street

On Grand Parade, also once a waterway, stands the grandiose **National** 

Monument, recalling the Irish patriots who died between 1798 and 1867. Bishop Lucey Park, off Grand Parade, has a section of city walls and a

of city walls and a fine gateway from the old cornmarket. Between St Patrick's Street and Grand Parade is the

English Market, a covered fruit and vegetable market established in

1610. Bustling St Patrick's Street, the backbone of the city, was a waterway until 1800 when boats were moored under the steps of gracious houses such as the Chateau Bar (see p347). At the top of the street, near Patrick Bridge, is the Father Mathew Statue, a monument to the founder of the Temperance Movement.



Fitzpatrick's second-hand shop on George's Quay

### **Paul Street**

Noted for its ethnic restaurants, chic bars, bookshops and trendy boutiques, Paul Street is the hub of the liveliest district in town. Just off Paul Street are the busy backstreets of Carey's Lane and French Church Street. In the early 18th century, Huguenots (French Protestants) settled in these streets and set themselves up as butter exporters, brewers and wholesale merchants. This area is Cork's equivalent to Dublin's Temple Bar (see p78).

#### **Shandon Quarter**

Crossing the Christy Ring Bridge to Pope's Quay, you will see on your left **St Mary's Dominican Church**, with its portico of Ionic columns topped by a huge pediment. John Redmond Street leads to the northern slopes of Cork, dominated by the spire of St Ann's Shandon (see p174) with its fine views of the city. To the northeast lies the lofty Montenotte district, once the epitome of Victorian gentility.

#### St Finbarr's Quarter

South of the river, rising above the city, this area's distinctive landmark is St Finbarr's Cathedral (see p175). Nearby is the ivy-clad Elizabeth Fort, a 16th-century structure which was converted into a prison in 1835 and later a *Garda* (police) station. A short walk to the east lies the Red Abbey, a 13th-century relic from an Augustinian abbey – the oldest building in Cork.



National Monument,

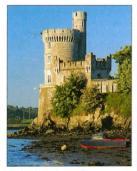
Selling fruit and vegetables at the English Market

#### Environs

Some beautiful countryside surrounds the city of Cork, especially along the lush valley of the River Lee (see p171). The landscape of East Cork is much gentler than the wild, rocky coastline of West Cork and County Kerry, and the land is much more fertile. Many local attractions make good day trips and there are also plenty of opportunities for outdoor activities such as walking, riding and fishing.

#### **♣** Blackrock Castle

Blackrock. To the public. On the banks of the River Lee 1.5 km (1 mile) downstream from the city centre stands Blackrock Castle, Originally built in 1582 by Lord Mountioy as a harbour fortification, the castle was destroyed by fire in 1827. It was rebuilt in 1830 to the design of architects I and GR Pain. The castle was recently bought by a private company and is no longer open to the public. A little further south at Carrigtwohill, near Fota Wildlife Park (see DD178-9), is the 13th-century Barryscourt Castle, with its two intact towers.



Blackrock Castle standing on the banks of the River Lee

#### T Dunkathel House

Glanmire. *Tel* 021 482 1014.

May-mid-Oct: Wed-Sun (pm only or by appt). Call to check times. 
ground floor.

Outside Glanmire village, 6 km (3.5 miles) northeast of Cork, is this gracious Neo-Classical country house. It was remodelled around 1785 for Abraham Morris, a wealthy Cork merchant, but retains a few features from an earlier



Copy of *The Three Graces* by Antonio Canova, Dunkathel House

house, including some Italianate stuccowork. The interior is decorated with Adam fireplaces and a fine collection of Irish furniture. In the spacious entrance hall is an elegant Bath stone staircase with an iron balustrade. On the half landing stands a plaster copy of Canova's The Three Graces, thought to have been cast in the early 19th century. The drawing room, hung with Victorian watercolours, offers lovely views of the wooded banks of the River Glanmire, Charming parkland surrounds the house.

#### **▲** Desmond Castle

Kinsale. Tel 021 477855.

Easter—Oct: 10am—6pm daily. Www.desmondcastle.ie
Situated some 16 km (10 miles) south of Cork City,
Desmond Castle was built by Maurice Bacach Fitzgerald, the ninth Earl of Desmond, in around 1500. A good example of an urban tower house, the castle consists of a keep with storehouses to the rear. It has spent time as an ordnance store, workhouse, customs

In 1997 a joint project between the Irish government's Heritage Service and a number of local historians and restauranteurs saw the **International Museum of Wine** being set up in the castle.

house and prison. In 1938

it was declared a national

monument.

### River Blackwater @

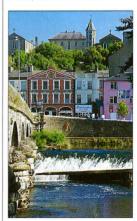
Road map B5. Co Cork. 📵 to Mallow. 📵 to Fermoy, Mallow or Kanturk.

The second longest river in Ireland after the Shannon (see p185), the Blackwater rises in high bogland in County Kerry. It then flows eastwards through County Cork until it reaches Cappoquin, County Waterford, where it changes course south through wooded sandstone gorges to the sea at Youghal (see p179). Much of

the valley is wooded, a reminder that the entire area was forested until the 17th century. The river passes some

magnificent country houses and pastoral views. However, the region is best known for its fishing – the Blackwater's tributaries are filled with fine brown trout.

The best way to see the valley is to take the scenic Blackwater Valley Drive from Youghal to Mallow. The route passes through Fermoy, a town founded by Scottish merchant John Anderson in 1789. Angling is the town's main appeal, especially for roach, rudd, perch and pike. Further west is Mallow, a prosperous town noted for its fishing, golf and horse racing, and a good base for tours of the area. Detours along the tributaries include Kanturk, a pleasant market town with a castle, on the River Allow.



Weirs and bridge at Fermoy on the River Blackwater

### Cobh @

Road map C6. Co Cork. 12,000. Old Yacht Club (021 4813301). www.cobhharbourchamber.ie

Cobh (pronounced "cove") lies on Great Island, one of the three islands in Cork harbour which are now linked by causeways. The Victorian seafront has rows of steeply terraced houses overlooked by **St Colman's**, an imposing Gothic Revival cathedral.

Following a visit by Queen Victoria in 1849, Cobh was renamed Queenstown but reverted to its original name in 1921. The town has one of the world's largest natural harbours, hence its rise to prominence as a naval base in the 18th century. It was also a major port for merchant ships and the main port from which Irish emigrants left for America.

Cobh was also a port of call for luxury passenger liners. In 1838, the *Sirius* made the first transatlantic crossing under steam power from here. Cobh was also the last stop for the *Titanic*, before its doomed Atlantic crossing in 1912.

Three years later, the *Lusitania* was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine just off Kinsale (see pp172–3), southwest of Cobh. A memorial on the promenade is dedicated to all those who died in the attack

#### IRISH EMIGRATION

Between 1848 and 1950 almost six million people emigrated from Ireland – two and a half million of them leaving from Cobh. The famine years of 1844–8 (see p219) triggered mass emigration as the impoverished made horrific transatlantic journeys in cramped, insanitary conditions. Many headed for the United States and Canada, and a few risked the long journey to Australia. Up until the early 20th century, emigrants waiting to board the ships were a familiar sight in Cobh. However, by the 1930s world recession and immigration restrictions in the United States and Canada led to a fall in the numbers leaving Ireland.



19th-century engraving of emigrants gathering in Cobh harbour

# ↑ The Queenstown Story Cobh Heritage Centre. Tel 021 481

3591. daily. 22 Dec-1 Jan.

Housed in a Victorian railway station, *The Queenstown Story* is an exhibition detailing the town's marine history. Exhibits and audiovisual displays recall the part Cobh played in Irish emigration and the transportation of convicts. Between 1791 and 1853, 40,000 convicts were sent to Australian penal colonies in notorious "coffin 4.4 ships"; many prisoners

were also kept

in floating jails in Cork Harbour. The exhibition also documents Cobh's role as a port of call for transatlantic liners.

#### **Environs**

North of Cobh is Fota Island, with Fota House and Gardens. This glorious Regency mansion, surrounded by landscaped gardens, has a 19th-century arboretum with rare trees and shrubs from Asia, South America, and North America.

Also on the island, the **Fota Wildlife Park** concentrates on breeding and reintroducing



Cobh harbour with the steeple of St Colman's rising above the town

animals to their natural habitat. The white-tailed sea eagle is one native species that has been saved from extinction in Ireland. The park boasts over 70 species, including giraffe, flamingo, and zebra. A train links the sections of the park.

Fota House and Gardens
Carrigtwohill. Tel 021 481 5543.
daily. 2 12
Fota Wildlife Park
Carrigtwohill. Tel 021 481 2678.
daily. 2 481 2678.

# Old Midleton Distillery @

Road map C5. Distillery Walk, Midleton, Co Cork.

Tel 021 461 3594. to Midleton.

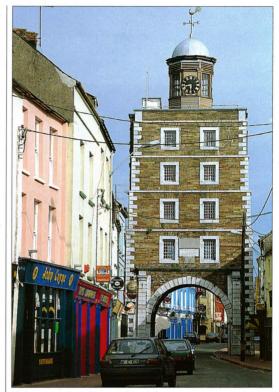
daily. 24 Dec-2 Jan. 25

in summer only.

www.whiskeytours.ie

A sensitively restored 18th-century distillery, Old Midleton Distillery is part of the vast Irish Distillers group at Midleton. Bushmills (see p266) is the oldest distillery in Ireland but Midleton is the largest, with a series of distilleries each producing a different whiskey, including lameson.

The story of Irish whiskey is presented through audiovisual displays, working models and authentic machinery. A tour of the old distillery takes in the mills, maltings, still-houses, kilns, granaries and warehouses. Visitors can take part in whiskey tasting and try to distinguish between various brands of Irish, Scotch and bourbon whiskies. Highlights of the visit include the world's largest pot still, with a capacity of over 30,000 gallons, and the working water wheel.



Clock tower on the main street of Youghal

### Youghal @

Road map C5. Co Cork. 🚮 7,500.

Market House, Market Square (024 20170). www.corkkerry.ie

Youghal (pronounced "yawl") is a historic walled town and thriving fishing port. The town was granted to Sir Walter Raleigh by Queen Elizabeth I but later sold to the Earl of Cork. In Cromwellian times, Youghal became a closed borough – an English Protestant garrison town.

The picturesque, four-storey Clock tower was originally the city gate, but was recast as a prison. Steep steps beside the tower lead up to a well-preserved section of the medieval town wall and fine views across the Blackwater estuary. Through the tower, in the sombre North Main Street. is the Red House, a Dutch mansion built in 1710. Virtually next door are some grim Elizabethan almshouses and. on the far side of the road, a 15th-century tower, known as Tynte's Castle.

Nestling in the town walls opposite is Myrtle Grove (closed to the public), one of the few unfortified Tudor manor houses to survive in Ireland. It has a triple-gabled façade and exquisite interior oak panelling. Just uphill is the Gothic Church of St Mary. Inside are tomb effigies and stained-glass windows depicting the coats of arms of local families.



Grain truck (c.1940) at the Jameson Heritage Centre



## THE LOWER SHANNON

CLARE · LIMERICK · TIPPERARY

In the three counties which flank the lower reaches of the Shannon, Ireland's longest river, the scenery ranges from the rolling farmland of Tipperary to the eerie limestone plateau of the Burren. The Shannon's bustling riverside resorts draw many visitors, and there are medieval strongholds and atmospheric towns of great historic interest. The region also boasts a vibrant music scene.

The River Shannon has long made this area an attractive prospect for settlers. There are several important Stone Age sites, including a major settlement by Lough Gur. From the 5th century, the region lay at the heart of Munster, one of Ireland's four Celtic provinces. The Rock of Cashel, a remarkable fortified abbey in county Tipperary, was the seat of the Kings of Munster for more than 700 years.

The Vikings penetrated the Shannon in the 10th century, but Gaelic clans put up stern resistance. During the Norman period, the chieftains of these clans built Bunratty Castle and other fortresses that were impressive enough to rival the strongholds erected by the Anglo-Irish dynasties. Foremost among the latter families were the Butlers, the

Earls of Ormonde, who held much land in Tipperary, and the Fitzgeralds, the main landowners in the Limerick area. From the Middle Ages, Limerick was often at the centre of events in the Lower Shannon. In 1691,

the army of William of Orange laid siege to the town, heralding the Treaty of Limerick that triggered the Catholic nobility's departure for Europe – the so-called "Flight of the Wild Geese".

Lush grassland, which has turned the Lower Shannon into prime dairy country, is typical of the region. In places this gives way to picturesque glens and mountains, such as the Galty range in southern Tipperary. The region's most dramatic scenery, however, is found along the coast of Clare, a county otherwise best known for its thriving traditional music scene.

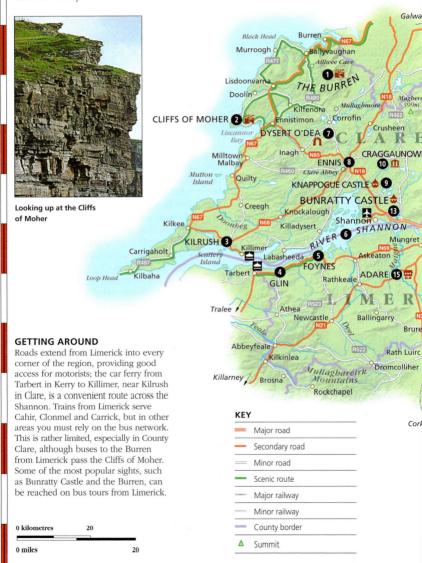


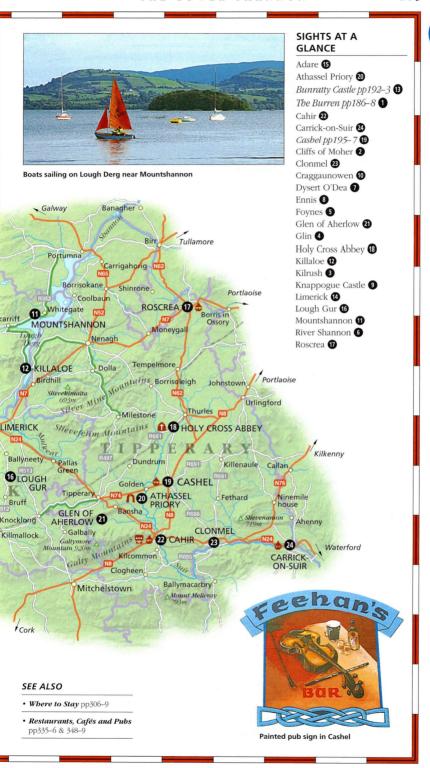
Ruins of Dysert O'Dea monastery in County Clare with an outstanding 12th-century High Cross

## **Exploring the Lower Shannon**

The central location of Limerick city makes it a natural focus for visitors to the region. However, there are many charming towns that make pleasanter bases, such as Adare, Cashel and also Killaloe, which is well placed for exploring the River Shannon. Most places of interest in Tipperary lie in the southern part of the county, where historic towns such as Clonmel and Cahir overlook the River Suir. By contrast, County Clare has few towns of any size, though it boasts the major attraction of Bunratty Castle. Beyond Ennis, the landscape becomes steadily bleaker until you reach the Burren.









Looking south along the Cliffs of Moher, one of the most dramatic stretches of Ireland's west coast

### The Burren 🗨

See pp186-8.

### Cliffs of Moher 2

Road map B4. Co Clare. ☐ from Ennis & Limerick. Visitors' Centre Tel 061 360788. ☐ daily. ☐ 21-27 Dec. ☐ O'Brien's Tower Tel 061 360788. ☐ Mar-Oct: daily. ☐ www.shannonheritage.com

Even when shrouded in mist or buffeted by Atlantic gales, the Cliffs of Moher are breathtaking, rising to a height of 200 m (650 ft) out of the sea and extending for 8 km (5 miles). The sheer rock face, with its layers of black shale and sandstone, provides sheltered ledges where guillemots and other sea birds nest.

Well-worn paths lead along the cliffs. From the **Visitors' Centre**, 5 km (3 miles) northwest of Liscannor, you can walk south to **Hag's Head** in an hour. To the north, there is a three-hour coastal walk between **O'Brien's Tower** – a viewing point built for Victorian tourists – and Fisherstreet near **Doolin** (see p188).

### Kilrush 🛭

Road map B4. Co Clare. A 2,800.
Heritage Centre, Market
House (065 905 1577). May-Sep.

With a new marina and the promotion of Kilrush as a heritage town, the fortunes of this 18th-century estate town have been greatly revived. It now has a **Heritage Centre**, where an exhibition covers the Great Famine (see p219) and the landlord evictions of 1888

(see pp42–3). A well-marked walking trail around the town's historic sights also starts here.

#### **Environs**

From Kilrush, boats take visitors dolphin-spotting or to nearby **Scattery Island**, site of a medieval monastery. The ruins include five churches and one of the tallest round towers in the country.

The Loop Head Drive is a 27-km (17-mile) route which begins at the resort of Kilkee, west of Kilrush. It winds south past dramatic coastal scenery to Loop Head, from where you can enjoy superb views.

### Glin •

Road map B5. Co Limerick. 600. from Limerick.

This charming village on the banks of the Shannon is the seat of the Knights of Glin, a branch of the Fitzgeralds who have lived in the district for seven centuries. Their first medieval castle is a ruin, but west of the village stands their



Rare 18th-century double "flying" staircase in Glin Castle

newer home, **Glin Castle**. Built in 1780, the manor succumbed to the vogue for Gothic romance in the 1820s, when it acquired battlements and gingerbread lodges. There is fine stuccowork and 18th-century furniture inside. It is now run as a hotel (*see p308*).

♣ Glin Castle
Tel 068 34173. by appt. Ø fobligatory. www.glincastle.com

### Foynes 6

Road map B5. Co Limerick. 🔼 650.

Foynes enjoyed short-lived fame in the 1930s and 1940s as the eastern terminus of the first airline passenger route across the Atlantic. Foynes Flying Boat Museum presents a detailed history of the seaplane service. The original Radio and Weather Room and

a 1940s-style tea room are par-

ticularly evocative of the era.

## **Ⅲ** Foynes Flying Boat Museum

Aras Ide, Foynes. *Tel* 069 65416.

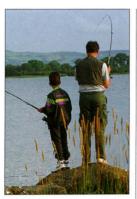
Apr-Oct: daily. 

L

#### **Environs**

The historic town of **Askeaton**, 11 km (7 miles) east of Foynes, has a castle and Franciscan friary founded by the Fitzgeralds. The friary is particularly interesting, with a 15th-century cloister of black marble. In Rathkeale, 8 km (5 miles) south, **Castle Matrix** is a restored 15th-century tower house renowned for the fine library in the Great Hall.

# ♣ Castle Matrix Rathkeale. Tel 069 64284. May-Sep: Sat-Thu.



Fishing on Lough Derg, the largest of the lakes on the Shannon

#### River Shannon 6

Road map B4, C4, C3. 🖪 to Limerick or Athlone. [a] to Carrick-on-Shannon, Athlone or Limerick. Arthur's Quay, Limerick (061 317522).

www.shannonregiontourism.ie The Shannon is the longest

river in Ireland, rising in County Cavan and meandering down to the Atlantic. Flowing through the heart of the island. it has traditionally marked the border between the provinces of Leinster and Connaught. In medieval times, castles guarded the major fords from Limerick to Portumna, and numerous monasteries were built along the riverbanks, including the celebrated Clonmacnoise (see pp250-51). Work began on the Shannon navigation system in the 1750s, but it fell into disuse with the advent of the railways. It has since been revived with the Shannon-Erne Waterway the latest stretch to be restored (see p235).

There are subtle the Shannon changes of landscape along the length of the river. South of Lough Allen, the countryside is covered with the drumlins or low hills typical of the northern Midlands. Towards Lough Ree, islands stud the river in an area of ecological importance which is home to otters, geese, grey herons and whooper swans. Continuing south beyond Athlone (see p249), the river flows through flood plains and bog before reaching Lough

Source of **EXPLORING** NORTHWEST the Shannon THE SHANNON IRFIAND Carrick-on-Shannon is the main centre for boating on Leitrim the upper reaches of the river, while Portumna and • Carrick-on-Shannon the atmospheric ports of Mountshannon and Killaloe are the principal bases for exploring Lough Derg. THE WEST IRELAND Athlone Cruiser on the Shannon **KFY** Tourist information Cruiser hire ei Portumna Water-bus tour Mountshannon THE LOWER Killaloe SHANNON 0 km 20 0 miles

**Derg**, the biggest of the lakes on the Shannon. The scenery is more dramatic here, with the lough's southern end edged by wooded mountains. From Killaloe (see p190), the river gains speed on its rush towards Limerick (see p191) and the sea. The mudflats of the Shannon estuary attract a great variety of birdlife. The port of Carrick-on-Shannon (see p235) is Grey heron on

the cruising centre of Ireland, but there are bases all along the river - especially

around Lough Derg, which is the lake most geared to boating. Water-buses connect most ports south of Athlone. If you hire a cruiser, enquire about the weather conditions before setting out, particularly on Loughs Ree and Derg, which are very exposed. The calm stretch from Portumna (see p213) to Athlone is easier for inexperienced sailors.

Walkers can enjoy the Lough Derg Way, a signposted route around the lake. The woods by Lough Key (see p219) also provide good walking territory.



Athlone and the southern reaches of Lough Ree

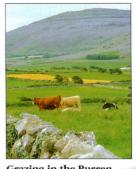
Dark red

helleborine

### The Burren o

The word Burren derives from boireann, which means "rocky land" in Gaelic - an apt name for this vast limestone plateau in northwest County Clare. In the 1640s, Cromwell's surveyor described it as "a savage land, yielding neither water enough to drown a man, nor tree to hang him, nor soil enough to bury". Few trees manage to grow in

this desolate place, yet other plants thrive. The Burren is a unique botanical environment in which Mediterranean and alpine plants rare to Ireland grow side by side. From May to August, an astonishing array of flowers adds splashes of colour to the austere landscape. These plants grow most abundantly around the region's shallow lakes and pastures, but they also take root in the crevices of the limestone pavements which are the most striking geological feature of the rocky plateau. In the southern part of the Burren, limestone gives way to the black shale and sandstone that form the dramatic Cliffs of Moher (see p184).



Grazing in the Burren A quirk in the local climate means that. in winter, the hills are warmer than the valleys - hence the unusual practice in the Burren of letting cattle graze on high ground in winter.

Turloughs are shallow

lakes which are dry in

#### **FAUNA OF THE BURREN**

The Burren is one of the best places in Ireland for butterflies, with 28 species found in the area. The birdlife is also varied. Skylarks and cuckoos are common on the hills and in the meadows, while the coast is a good place for razorbills, guillemots, puffins and other sea birds. Mammals are harder to spot. Badgers, foxes and stoats live here, but you are much more likely to see a herd of shaggy-coated wild goats or an Irish hare.



The pearl-bordered fritillary, one of a number of fritillaries found in the Burren. can be seen in no other part of Ireland.



An Irish hare's white and brown winter coat turns to reddishbrown in the summer.



Whooper swans from Iceland flock to the wetlands of the Burren in winter.



The hooded crow is easily identified by its grey and black plumage.



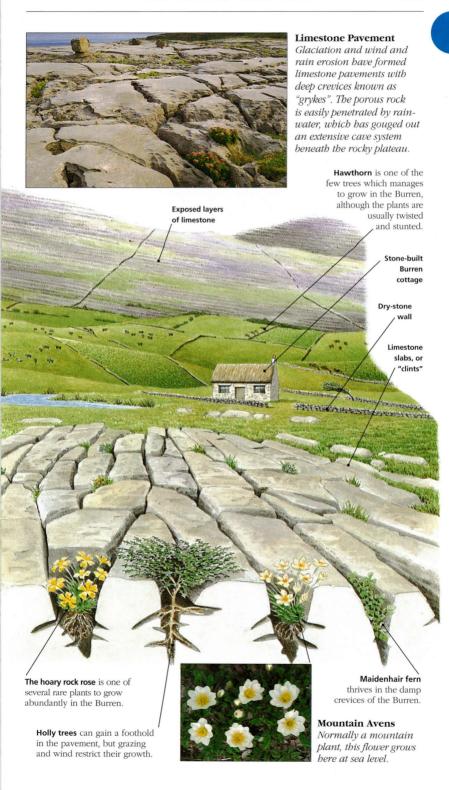
This striking plant, common

in the Burren, is

a member of the

geranium family.

It flowers in June.



#### **Exploring the Burren**

If you are interested in the unique geology and natural history of the Burren, head for Mullaghmore, to the southeast of the area. This is one of the wildest parts of the plateau and reaches a height of 191 m (626 ft), with some of the best limestone pavements in the area.

A good place to begin a tour of the more accessible parts of the Burren is at the Cliffs of Moher (see p184). From here it is a short drive north to Doolin, near the port for the Aran Islands (see pp214-15). This rather spread-out village is renowned for its traditional music; Gus O'Connor's pub (see p348) acts as a focus for music-lovers in the area. The coastal road runs north from Doolin to a desolate limestone outcrop at Black Head, while turning inland you will reach Lisdoonvarna. The Victorians developed the town as a spa, but it is now most renowned for its colourful pubs and its matchmaking festival (see p50).



Poulnabrone Dolmen in the heart of the Burren's limestone plateau



Music shop in Doolin

To the north along the N67 lies Ballyvaughan, a fishing village dotted with slate-roofed cottages and busy with tourists in summer. It is well placed for reaching a number of sights.

Nearby Bishop's Quarter has a sheltered beach with glorious views across a lagoon towards Galway Bay. Aillwee Cave, to the south, is just one of thousands of caves in the Burren, but is the only one open to the Kilfenora Cathedral public. It consists of

a tunnel which opens into a series of caverns. In the first, known as Bear Haven, the remains of hibernation pits used by bears are still visible.

Ruined forts and castles and numerous prehistoric sites dot the landscape. Just west of Aillwee Cave is Cahermore Stone Fort, with a lintelled doorway, and to the south

Gleninsheen Wedge Tomb, a style of grave which marks the transition between Stone and Bronze Age cultures. The more famous Poulnabrone **Dolmen** nearby is a striking portal tomb dating back to 2500-2000 BC. Continuing south you reach the ghostly shell of Leamaneagh Castle, a 17th-century mansion that incorporates an earlier tower house built by the O'Briens.

On the southern fringe of the Burren lies Kilfenora, a Catholic diocese which, by a historical quirk, has the Pope for its bishop. The village's modest cathedral, one of many 12th-century churches in the Burren, has a roofless chancel with finely sculpted capitals. Kilfenora, however, is more famous for its High Crosses: there are several in the

graveyard. Best preserved is the Doorty Cross,

with a carving of a bishop and two other clerics on the east face. Next door, the refurbished

**Burren Centre** offers an excellent multidimensional exhibition giving

information on the geology and fauna of the area and man's impact on the landscape.

Carved capital in



www.theburrencentre.ie



### Dvsert O'Dea •

Road map 4B. Corrofin, Co Clare. from Ennis. Tel 06568 37401. May-Sep: daily.

Dysert O'dea castle stands on a rocky outcrop 9 km (6 miles) north of Ennis. This tower house, erected in the 15th century, is home to the Archaeology Centre, which includes a small museum and also marks the start of a trail around nearby historic sights. A map of the path, designed for both walkers and cyclists, is available from the tea room.

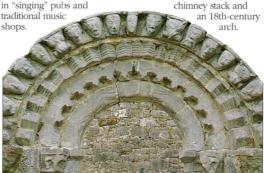
Across a field from the castle is a monastic site said to have been founded by the obscure St Tola in the 8th century. The ruins are overgrown and rather worn, but the Romanesque carving above one doorway is still clear, and there is also an impressive 12th-century High Cross, with a bishop sculpted on the east side (see p243).

Further south, the trail leads past the remains of two stone forts, a ruined castle and the site of a 14th-century battle.

### Ennis 6

Road map 4B. Co Clare. 25,000. (06568 28366). www.shannonregiontourism.ie

Clare's county town, on the banks of the River Fergus, is a charming place with winding lanes that recall Ennis's medieval beginnings. The town is also renowned for its painted shopfronts and folk music festivals (known as fleadh in Gaelic). It abounds



Finely carved Romanesque doorway at Dysert O'Dea



Colourful exterior of Michael Kerins pub in Ennis

Ennis can trace its origins to the 13th century and to the O'Briens, Kings of Thomond, who were the area's feudal overlords in the Middle Ages. The Franciscan friary that they founded here in the 1240s is now the town's main attraction. Dating from the 14th and 15th centuries, the ruined Ennis Friary is famous for its rich carvings and decorated tombs in the chancel - above all the 15th-century MacMahon tomb with its finely carved alabaster panels. Extensive conservation work is ongoing here.

Next door to the friary is a delightful 17th-century house, now Cruise's restaurant, and on the corner of nearby Francis Street stands the Oueen's Hotel - featured in James Joyce's Ulysses. To the south, O'Connell Square has a monument to Daniel O'Connell (see p42), who was elected MP for Clare in 1828. He also gave his name to the town's main street, where, among the pubs and shops, you can spot a medieval tower, a Jacobean

chimney stack and

#### ♠ Ennis Friary Abbey St. Tel 06568 29100. May-Oct: daily. 169 &

#### Environs

The area around Ennis is rich in monastic ruins. Just 3 km (2 miles) south of the town is Clare Abbey, an Augustinian foundation set up by the O'Briens in 1189 but dating mainly from the 1400s.

Quin Franciscan Friary, set in meadows 13 km (8 miles) southeast of Ennis, was also built in the 15th century, and incorporates the romantic ruins of a Norman castle. The wellpreserved cloister is one of the finest of its kind in Ireland.

### Knappogue Castle

Road map 4B. Quin, Co Clare. Tel 061 360788. Apr-Oct; ring for times. 69 1 & limited. www.shannonheritage.com

A powerful local clan called the MacNamaras erected Knappogue Castle in 1467. Apart from a ten-year spell in Cromwellian times, it stayed in their hands until 1815. During the War of Independence (see pp44-5), the castle was used by the revolutionary forces.

Knappogue has been well restored and is one of Ireland's most charmingly furnished castles. The central tower house is original, but the rest is Neo-Gothic. Inside are fine Elizabethan fireplaces and linenfold wood panelling.

Medieval banquets are staged in the castle (see p360), with storytelling and singing.

### Craggaunowen 🐠

Road map B4. Kilmurry, Co Clare. 💂 🗐 to Ennis. Tel 061 360788. May-Oct: daily. 🍪 👃 🗖 📋

www.shannonheritage.com

The Craggaunowen Project, known as "Craggaunowen: the Living Past" and designed to bring Bronze Age and Celtic culture to life, is a shining example of a recreated prehistoric site. The centre was created in the grounds of Craggaunowen Castle in the 1960s by John Hunt, a noted archaeologist who had been inspired by his excavations at Lough Gur (see p194). The castle's tower house contains bronzes and other objects from Hunt's archaeological collection, the rest of which can be seen in Limerick.

In summer, people in costume act out particular trades, such as spinning or potting, or serve as guides. There is a description of how communities lived in the ring fort, a typical early Christian homestead. You can also see meat being prepared in the fulacht fiadh, a traditional hunter's cooking hole.

The complex includes part of a togher, an original Iron Age timber road that was discovered in Longford. The most eye-catching sight, however, is the crannog (see p33), a man-made island enclosing wattle and daub houses - a style of defensive homestead that survived until around 1600.

Another exhibit is a leatherhulled boat built in the 1970s by Tim Severin. He used it to



A woman in peasant costume spinning wool at Craggaunowen

retrace the route which legend says St Brendan took in a similar vessel across the Atlantic in the 6th century (see p27).

#### Mountshannon 🛭

Road map C4. Co Clare. 3 240. to Holy Island. **Tel** 061 921351.

This pretty village on the banks of Lough Derg (see p185) seems to have its back turned to the lake but is nevertheless a major angling centre. Solid 18th-century stone houses and churches cluster around the harbour, together with some good pubs.

Mountshannon is well placed for exploring the lake's western shores, with plenty of scope for walks and bicycle rides. Fishing boats are available for hire, and in summer you can go by boat to Holy Island, the site of a monastery founded in the 7th century. The ruins include four chapels and a graveyard of medieval tombs.

### Killaloe @

Road map C4. Co Clare. 350. May-Sep: Brian Ború Heritage Centre, The Bridge (061 376866). www.killaloe.ie

Killaloe, birthplace of Brian Ború (940-1014), High King of Ireland (see p34), lies close to where the Shannon emerges from Lough Derg, and is the lake's most prosperous pleasure port. A 17th-century bridge separates Killaloe from its twin town of Ballina on the opposite bank. Ballina has better pubs, such as Goosers on the waterfront (see p349), but Killaloe is the main boating centre (see p365) and offers more of historical interest.

Killaloe's grandest building is St Flannan's Cathedral, built around 1182. Its richly carved Romanesque doorway was once part of an earlier chapel. The church also has an ancient Ogham Stone (see p34), unusual because the inscription is carved in both Nordic runes and Ogham. Outside stands St Flannan's Oratory, built around the same time as the cathedral.

The Brian Ború Heritage Centre, in a converted boathouse on the bridge, has an exhibition about the Shannon and Lough Derg, and is the starting point for a marked walk along sections of the old Killaloe Canal. You can also arrange for local fishermen to take you out on the lake.

## Bunratty Castle **6**

See pp192-3.



Bicycle hire and boat trips at Mountshannon

### Limerick @

Road map B4. Co Limerick.

90,000. Santharian Shannon.

Arthur's Quay (061 317522).

Sat.

www.shannonregiontourism.com

The third largest city in the Republic, Limerick was founded by the Vikings. Given its strategic point on the River Shannon, it thrived under the Normans, but later bore the brunt of English oppression. After the Battle of the Boyne (see p244), the rump of the defeated Jacobite army withdrew here. The siege which followed has entered Irish

folklore as a heroic defeat, sealed by the Treaty of Limerick in 1691. English treachery in reneging on most of the terms of the treaty still rankles. It is no coincidence that Catholicism and nationalism are strong in the city.

Limerick has a reputation for high

unemployment, crime and general neglect. However, it is fast acquiring a new image as a commercial city, revitalized by new industries and restoration projects. Even so, visitors may still have to dig a little to appreciate its charm.

The city centre consists of three historic districts. King's Island was the first area to be settled by the Vikings and was later the heart of the medieval city, when it was known as Englishtown. It boasts Limerick's two main landmarks, King John's Castle and St Mary's Cathedral. The old Irishtown, south of the Abbey River, has its fair share of drab houses and shops, but also has its own

historic buildings and a pocket of Georgian elegance in St John's Square. Near here is Limerick's most conspicuous sight, St John's Cathedral, built in 1861. Its 85-m (280-ft) spire is the tallest in the country.

The most pleasant part of Limerick in which to stroll is Newtown Pery – a grid of gracious Georgian terraces focused on O'Connell Street.

#### ★ King John's Castle

Nicholas St. *Tel* 061 411201. daily. Good Fri, Dec 24-26. We www.shannonheritage.com Founded by King John in 1200, not long after the Normans

arrived, this

imposing castle has five drum towers and solid curtain walls. Inside, the castle is less interesting architecturally, but it houses a

Carved misericord in St Mary's Cathedral unearthed pots and jewellery, and you can also see Viking large as loves and later fortifications.

facts is a soldier's diary recording the Siege of Limerick. Across the nearby Thomond Bridge, the Treaty Stone marks the spot where the Treaty of

Limerick was signed in 1691.

One of the most dramatic arti-

### ♠ St Mary's Cathedral

Bridge Street. *Tel* 061 310293.

☐ 9:30am-4:30pm Mon-Fri, 9:30am -2pm Sat, for services only Sun.

Built in 1172, this is the oldest structure in the city. Except for a fine Romanesque doorway and the nave, however, little remains of the early church.

The 15th-century misericords



Characteristic Georgian doorway in St John's Square

in the choir stalls are the pride of St Mary's, with superb carvings in black oak of angels, griffins and other creatures both real and imaginary.

Nearby, George's Quay is a pleasant street with restaurants and outdoor cafés and good views across the river.

#### 1 Hunt Museum

Rutland St. Tel 061 312833. 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, 2pm-5pm Sun. 12 11 12 www.huntmuseum.com Located in the Old Customs House, this fine museum has one of the greatest collections of antiquities in Ireland, gathered by the archaeologist John Hunt. The best exhibits, dating from the Bronze Age, include gold jewellery and a magnificent shield. Among the other artifacts are Celtic brooches and the 9th-century Antrim Cross.

### Limerick Museum

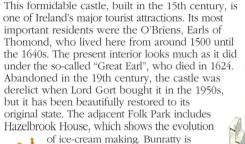
Nicholas St. *Tel* 061 417826. 10am–5pm Tue–Sat. for lunch, public hols & 7 days at Christmas. www.limerickcity.ie

The city museum is in a fine 19th-century granary building. Limerick's history and traditions from lace-making to rugby are on display.



View of Limerick showing Thomond Bridge across the Shannon and King John's Castle

## Bunratty Castle & Folk Park ®



also famous for its splendid medieval banquets.

#### \* North Solar

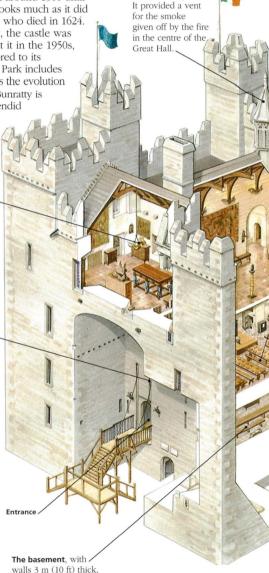
This 17th-century German chandelier is the most curious feature in the Great Earl's private apartments. The term "solar" was used during the Middle Ages to describe an upper chamber.

The Murder Hole was designed for pouring boiling water or pitch on to the heads of attackers.



#### North Front

Bunratty Castle is unusual for the high arches on both the north and south sides of the keep. However, the first-floor entrance, designed to deter invaders, was typical of castles of the period.



STAR FEATURES

★ Great Hall

★ Main Guard

★ North Solar

The chimney is a

replica in wood of the stone original.

was probably used for

storage or as a stable.



### VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Road map B4. Bunratty, Co Clare.

Tel 061 360788. Shannon.
from Ennis, Limerick, Shannon.

Castle & Folk Park Jul &

Aug: 9am-6pm daily; Jun & Sep:
9:30am-5:30pm daily. Good

Friday 24-26 Dec. Tell to to
Folk Park. Banquets see p360.

www.shannonheritage.com

\* Main Guard
Now used for medieval-style
banquets, this was the room where
Bunratty's soldiers ate, slept
and relaxed. Music
was played to them

was played to them from the Minstrels' Gallery, and a gate in one corner gave instant access to the dungeons.

Anteroom



#### South Solar

These guest apartments have fine linenfold wood panelling, a form of decoration popular during the Tudor period. The elaborate fan-vaulted ceiling is partly a reconstruction.

was where the earls put on their gowns before an audience in the Great Hall. They also used it for private interviews.

The Robing Room

#### **BUNRATTY FOLK PARK**

A meticulous recreation of rural life in Ireland at the end of the 19th century, this Folk Park began with the reconstruction of a farmhouse which was saved during the building of nearby Shannon Airport. It now consists of a complete village, incorporating shops and a whole range of domestic architecture from a labourer's cottage to an elegant Georgian house. Other buildings in the park include a farmhouse typical of the Moher region in the Burren (see p184) and a working corn mill. During the main summer season, people in authentic costume wander through the streets and traditional crafts are demonstrated.



Main street of Bunratty Folk Park village

A spiral staircase is found in each of the four towers.

#### **★** Great Hall

This Tudor standard was among the many furnishings that Lord Gort brought to the castle. It stands in the Great Hall, once the banqueting hall and audience chamber, and still Bunratty's grandest room.



Typical thatched cottage in the village of Adare

#### Adare 🛭

Road map B5. Co Limerick. 1,000.

Heritage Centre, Main St
(061 396255). Feb–Dec: daily.

www.shannonregiontourism.ie

Adare is billed as Ireland's prettiest village. Cynics call it the prettiest "English" village since its manicured perfection is at odds with normal notions of national beauty. Originally a fief of the Fitzgeralds, the Earls of Kildare, Adare owes its present appearance more to the Earls of Dunraven, who restored the village in the 1820s and 1830s. The village is a picture of neat stonework and thatched roofs punctuated by pretty ruins, all in a woodland setting.

The tourist office is at the new Heritage Centre, which includes a good exhibition on Adare's monastic history. Next door is the **Trinitarian Priory**, founded by the Fitzgeralds in 1230 and over-restored by the first Earl of Dunraven; it is now a Catholic church and convent. Opposite, by a stone-arched bridge, is the Washing Pool, a restored wash-house site.

By the main bridge, on the Limerick road, is the Augustinian Priory which was founded by the Fitzgeralds in 1315. Also known as Black Abbey, this well-restored priory has a central tower, subtle carvings, delightful cloisters and a graceful sedilia – a carved triple seat. Just over the bridge, from where it is best viewed, is Desmond Castle, a 13th-century feudal castle set on the banks of the River Maigue.

Nearby stands the main gate to **Adare Manor**, a luxury hotel and golf course (see p307). Within its 900 ha (2,220 acres) of parkland lie two evocative

ruins. The **St Nicholas Church** and **Chantry Chapel** date back to the 12th century; both are accessible by path. The graceful 15th-century **Franciscan Friary**, however, is surrounded by the golf course, though it can be seen clearly from the pathway.

In the heart of the village is the elegant Dunraven Arms Hotel (see p306) from where the local hunt rides to hounds. Some of the nearby cottages, originally built by the Earl of Dunraven in 1828 for his estate workers, have been converted into pleasant cafés and restaurants.

### Lough Gur 6

Road map B5. Co Limerick. 
Visitors' Centre Tel 061 360788.
May-Sep: daily. 
Image: Limited. 
www.heritageireland.com

This stone age settlement, 26 km (16 miles) south of Limerick, was extensively inhabited in 3000 BC. Today the horseshoe-shaped lough and surrounding hills enclose an archaeological park. All around Lough Gur are standing stones and burial mounds, including megalithic tombs. One of the most impressive sights is the 4,000-year-old **Great Stone** Circle, just outside the park, by the Limerick-Kilmallock road. Excavations in the 1970s unearthed rectangular, oval and rounded Stone Age huts with stone foundations. The



Colourfully painted shopfronts on Main Street in Adare



**Facade of Cashel Palace Hotel** 

interpretive centre, which is housed in mock Stone Age huts on the site of the original settlement, offers a range of audiovisual displays, models of stone circles, burial chambers and tools and weapons.

As well as the various prehistoric sites scattered all over the Knockadoon Peninsula, there are two castle ruins from more recent times beside the lough – the 15th-century Bourchier's Castle and Black Castle, a 13th-century seat of the Earls of Desmond.

### Roscrea @

Road map C4. Co Tipperary. \$\int\_{0.00}^{\infty} 5,500.\$

Heritage Centre, Castle St (0505 21850). mid-Apr-Oct: daily.

www.heritageireland.com

This monastic town on the banks of the River Bunnow has an interesting historic centre. The 13th-century Anglo-Norman Roscrea Castle, recently fully restored, consists of a gate tower, curtain walls and two corner towers. In the courtyard stands Damer House, a Queen Anne-style residence with a magnificent staircase and Georgian garden. Just over the river lies St Cronan's Monastery with a High Cross, Romanesque church gable and a truncated round tower. There are remains of a 15th-century Franciscan Friary on Abbey Street and the renovated Blackmills now houses the St Cronan's High Cross and the Roscrea Pillar.

♣ Roscrea Castle & Gardens Castle Street. Tel 0505 21850. ☐ mid-Mar-Oct: daily; Nov-1 Jan: Sat & Sun. ☑ ₺ limited. ☑

### Holy Cross Abbey

Road map C5. Thurles, Co Tipperary.

Tel 0504 43241. to Thurles.

9am–8pm daily. to E

Founded in 1169 by the Benedictines, Holy Cross was supposedly endowed with a splinter from the True Cross, hence its name. Now it has been completely restored, and the church is once again a popular place of worship and pilgrimage. Most of the present structure dates from the 15th century. It was built by the Cistercians, who took over the abbey in 1180. This gracious cruciform church, embellished with mullioned windows and Crucifixion carving sculpted pillars, is at Holy Cross Abbey

one of the finest examples of late Gothic architecture in Ireland.

Nearby, Farney Castle is the only round tower in Ireland that is occupied as a family home. It was built in 1495 and is currently the design studio and retail outlet of Irish international designer Cyril Cullen.

### Cashel @

Road map C5. Co Tipperary.

2,500. Heritage Centre,

Main St (062 62511).

The great attraction of the town is the magnificent medieval Rock of Cashel (see pp196-7). Many people stay overnight to enjoy eerie floodlit views of the Rock. A private path leads to it from Cashel Palace Hotel (see p307), an opulent Oueen Anne residence that was once the Bishop's Palace. Nearby, the remnant of a 12th-century castle has been turned into Kearney Castle Hotel. In the evening you can sample traditional Irish culture at the Brú Ború Heritage Centre. Named after Brian

Ború, the 10th-century king of Munster (see pp34–5), the centre offers folk theatre, traditional music,

banquets, and a craft shop. At the foot of the Rock is the

13th-century **Dominican Friary**. This austere sandstone church has a fine west door, a 15th-century tower and lancet windows. On farmland outside Cashel lie the scant remains of **Hore Abbey**, a 13th-

century Cistercian foundation. The abbey was largely remodelled and a tower added in the

15th century, but the barrelvaulted sacristy, the nave and chapter house are all original.

Eg Brú Ború Heritage Centre Cashel. *Tel* 062 61122. Jun–Sep: daily; Oct–May: Mon–Fri. Jun–Sep: www.comhaltas.com



Ruins of Hore Abbey (1272) with the Rock of Cashel in the background

### Rock of Cashel

This rocky stronghold, which rises dramatically out of the Tipperary plain, was a symbol of royal and priestly power for more than a millennium. From the 5th century it was the seat of the Kings of Munster, whose kingdom extended over much of southern Ireland. In 1101, they handed Cashel over to the Church, and it flourished as a religious centre until a siege by a Cromwellian army in 1647 culminated in the massacre of its 3,000 occupants. The cathedral was finally abandoned in the late 18th

century. Two hundred years on, the Rock of Cashel is besieged by visitors. A good proportion of the medieval complex is still standing, and Cormac's Chapel is one of the most outstanding examples of Romanesque architecture in the country.



### **★ St Patrick's Cross**

The carving on the east face of this cross is said to be of St Patrick, who visited Cashel in 450. The cross is a copy of the original which stood bere until 1982 and is now in the museum.

### Hall of the Vicars' Choral

This hall was built in the 15th century for Cashel's most privileged choristers. The ceiling, a modern reconstruction based on medieval designs, features several decorative corbels including this painted angel.

Entrance

#### The Museum in the undercroft contains a display of stone carvings, including the original St Patrick's Cross.

**★** Cormac's Chapel

Superb Romanesque carving adorns this chapel - the jewel of Cashel. The tympanum over the north door shows a centaur in a helmet aiming his bow and arrow at a lion. Limestone rock

Dormitory block

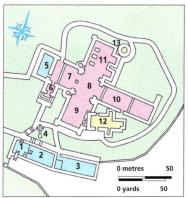
### STAR FEATURES

- \* Cathedral
- ★ Cormac's Chapel

Outer wal

★ St Patrick's Cross

For hotels and restaurants in this region see pp306-9 and pp335-6



Round tower

Crossing

#### KEY

#### 12TH CENTURY

- 4 St Patrick's Cross (replica)
- 12 Cormac's Chapel
- 13 Round tower
  - 13TH CENTURY Cathedral porch

  - 7 Nave
  - Crossing 8 South transept

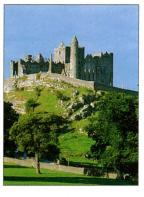
  - 10 Choir
  - 11 North transept
  - 15TH CENTURY Ticket office
  - Hall of the Vicars' Choral (museum) 3 Dormitory
  - 5 Castle

#### VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Road map C5. Cashel. Tel 062 61437. 🗐 to Thurles. 🗐 to Cashel. adaily. Early Jun-mid-

Sep: 9am-7pm; mid-Mar-early Jun & mid-Sep-mid-Oct: 9am-5:30pm; mid-Oct-mid-Mar: 9am-4:30pm.

25-26 Dec. 16 & 6



#### The Rock

The 28-m (92-ft) round tower, the oldest and tallest building on the rock, enabled Cashel's inhabitants to scour the surrounding plain for potential attackers.

> The Choir contains the 17th-century tomb of Miler Magrath, who caused a scandal by being both a Protestant and Catholic archbishop at the same time.

Graveyard

The O'Scully Monument, an ornate memorial erected in 1870 by a local landowning family, was damaged during a storm in 1976.

### North Transept

Panels from three 16th-century tombs in the north transept are decorated with remarkably fresh and intricate carvings. This one, against the north wall, features a vine-leaf design and strange stylized beasts.



### \* Cathedral

The roofless Gothic cathedral has thick walls riddled with hidden passages; in the north transept these are seen emerging at the base of the windows.

### Athassel Priory @

Road map C5. 8 km (5 miles) W of Cashel, Co Tipperary. (a) to Tipperary. daily.

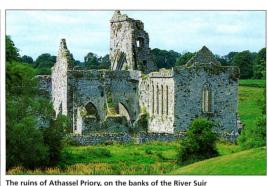
This ruined Augustinian priory is situated on the west bank of the River Suir. The tomb of William de Burgh, the Norman founder of the priory, lies in the church. Established in 1192, Athassel is believed to have been the largest medieval priory in Ireland until it burned down in 1447. The scattered monastic site conveys a tranquil atmosphere, from the gatehouse and church to the remains of the cloisters and chapter house. The church has a fine west doorway, nave and chancel walls, as well as a 15th-century central tower.

### Glen of Aherlow @

Road map C5. Co Tipperary. [A] to Bansha or Tipperary. | Coach Rd Inn. on R663 8 km (5 miles) E of Galbally (062 56331). www.aherlow.com

The lush valley of the River Aherlow runs between the Galty Mountains and the wooded ridge of Slievenamuck. Bounded by the villages of Galbally and Bansha, the glen was historically an important pass between Limerick and Tipperary and a notorious hideout for outlaws.

Today there are opportunities for riding, cycling, rambling and fishing. Lowland walks



follow the trout-filled river along the valley floor. More adventurous walkers will be tempted by the Galty range, which offers more rugged hill-walking, past wooded foothills, mountain streams, tiny corrie lakes and splendid sandstone peaks.

### Cahir 20

Road map C5. Co Tipperary. № 2,100. 🖪 🖨 🖰 May-Sep: Castle Street (052 41453). A Fri. www.tipperarycounty.ie

Once a garrison and mill town, Cahir is today a busy market town. The pub-lined Castle Street is the most appealing area. It leads to the Suir River, Cahir Castle and the walk to the Swiss Cottage.

On the edge of town lies the ruined Cahir Abbey, a 13th-century Augustinian priory. Its fine windows are decorated with carved heads.

### **♣** Cahir Castle

Castle Street. **Tel** 052 41011. daily. 24–30 Dec. 🚳 🌠 [ limited. www.heritageireland.ie Built on a rocky island in the River Suir, Cahir is one of the most formidable castles in Ireland and a popular film set. This well-preserved fortress dates from the 13th century but is inextricably linked to its later owners, the Butlers. A powerful family in Ireland since the Anglo-Norman invasion, they were considered trusty lieges of the English crown and were granted the Cahir barony in 1375. Under their command, the castle was renovated and extended throughout the 15th and 16th centuries. It remained in the Butler family until 1964.

The castle is divided into outer, middle and inner wards, with a barbican at the outer entrance. The inner ward is on the site of the original Norman castle; the foundations are 13th-century, as are the curtain walls and keep. The restored interior includes the striking great hall, which dates largely from the 1840s, though two of the walls are original and the windows are 15th-century. From the ramparts there are views of the river and millrace.

#### **∰** Swiss Cottage

Ardfinnan Road, Cahir. Tel 052 41144. May-Sep: daily; Mar-Apr & Oct- Nov: Tue-Sun. 6 obligatory. The Swiss Cottage is a superb example of a cottage orné, a rustic folly. It was designed for the Butlers by the Regency architect John Nash in 1810. Here, Lord and Lady Cahir played at bucolic bliss, enjoying picnics dressed as peasants. Fashion dictated a cottage



View across the unspoilt Glen of Aherlow

orné should blend in with the countryside and all designs should be drawn from nature with nothing matching, so the windows and sloping eaves are all of different sizes and design. The beautifully restored cottage contains a tea room, gracious music room and two bedrooms.

### Clonmel @

Road map C5. Co Tipperary. 17,000. 💂 🗐 📍 8 Sarsfield St (052 22960), www.clonmel.ie

Set on the River Suir and framed by the Comeragh Mountains, Clonmel is Tipperary's main town. This Anglo-Norman stronghold was a fief of the Desmonds and eventually of the Butlers. Its prosperity was founded on milling and brewing. Today, Clonmel is a bustling, brash town with quirky architecture and lively nightlife.

The Franciscan Friary by the quays was remodelled in Early English style in Victorian times but retains a 15th-century tower and houses 16th-century Butler tomb effigies. Nearby is O'Connell Street, Clonmel's main shopping street, which is straddled by the West Gate, built in 1831. Visitors to



Clonmel's mock Tudor West Gate spanning O'Connell Street



The Swiss Cottage at Cahir, beautifully restored to its original state

memorabilia of Charles Bianconi (1786 -1875), including pictures of the horse-drawn coach service he established between Clonmel and Cahir. Eventually this developed into a nationwide passenger service.

Tom Butler, the 10th Earl of Ormonde, a loyal subject to Elizabeth Tudor. On his death, the Ormondes abandoned Carrick for Kilkenny (see pp142-3).

### Carrick-on-Suir @

Road map C5. Co Tipperary. 5,500. Heritage Centre (051 640200)

This sleepy market town has a distinctly old-fashioned air. In the 15th century, it was a strategic site commanding access west to Clonmel and southeast to Waterford, but after Tudor times the town sank into oblivion. Apart from Ormond Castle, there are few specific sights. However, you can stroll by the old waterside warehouses or shop for Tipperary Crystal (see p353).

#### **♠** Ormond Castle

Castle Park. Tel 051 640787. mid-Jun-Oct: daily. 16 6 6 limited. Although once a fortress, Ormond Castle is the finest surviving Tudor manor house in Ireland. It was built by the powerful Butler family, the Earls of Ormonde, who were given their title by the English crown in 1328. The castle, currently being restored, has a gracious Elizabethan façade overlaying the medieval original: the battlemented towers on the south side sit oddly with the gabled façade and its mullioned and oriel windows.

The finest room is the Long Gallery, which has a stuccoed ceiling studded with heraldic crests, and two ornately carved fireplaces. The Elizabethan section was added by Black



Intricate wood carving on a fourposter bed at Ormond Castle

#### Environs

In the churchyard at Ahenny, about 10 km (6 miles) north of Carrick, stand two magnificent High Crosses (see p243). Both are crowned by "caps" or "bishops' mitres" and have intricate cable, spiral and fret patterns.

At Kilkieran, 5 km (3 miles) north of Carrick, are three other interesting High Crosses. dating from the 9th century. The Plain Cross is unadorned but capped; the West Cross is profusely ornamented though weathered; the Long Shaft Cross has an odd design of stumpy arms on a long shaft.



## THE WEST OF IRELAND

MAYO · GALWAY · ROSCOMMON

his is the heart of Connaught, Ireland's historic western province. The West lives up to its image as a traditional, rural, sparsely populated land, with windswept mountains and countryside speckled with low stone walls and peat bogs. Yet it also encompasses Galway, a fast-growing university town whose youthful population brings life to the medieval streets and snug pubs.

The rugged Atlantic coastline of the West has been occupied for over 5,000 years. It is rich in prehistoric sites such as the land enclosures of Céide Fields and the ring forts on the Aran Islands. Evidence of the monastic period can be seen in the mysterious and

beautiful remains at Kilmacduagh and Clonfert; and the region's religious associations still exert an influence, apparent in the pilgrimages to Knock and Croagh Patrick in County Mayo.

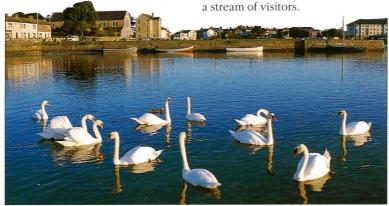
In medieval times, the city of Galway was an Anglo-Norman stronghold, surrounded by warring Gaelic clans. After the Cromwellian victories of the 1640s, many Irish were dispossessed of their fertile lands and dispatched "to hell or Connacht". Landlords made their mark in the 17th and 18th centuries, building impressive country houses at Clonalis, Strokestown Park and

Westport. During the Great Famine, the West – especially County Mayo – suffered most from emigration, a trend that continues to this day. In spite of this, strong Gaelic traditions have survived in County Galway, the country's largest Gaeltacht (see

p229), where almost half the population speaks Irish as a first language.

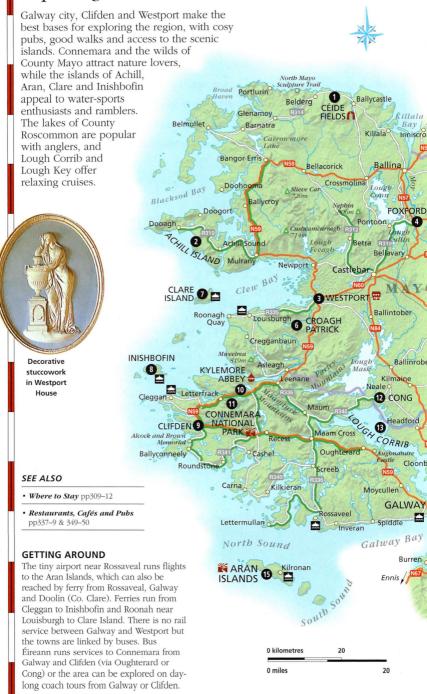
The bracken browns and soft violets of Connemara in the west of Galway and the fertile farmland, extensive bogs and placid lakes of County Roscommon are in striking contrast to the magnificent cliff scenery of the remote islands off the coast. This region is often shrouded in a misty drizzle or else battered by Atlantic winds and accompanying heavy downpours.

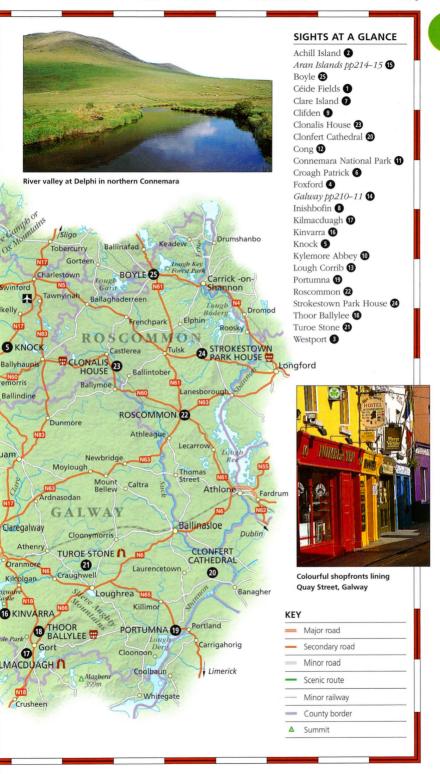
Summer is a time for festivities: the Galway Races in July, traditional sailing ship races off Kinvarra in August and the Galway Oyster Festival in September are all lively events that attract a stream of visitors



Swans by the quayside of the Claddagh area of Galway

## Exploring the West of Ireland







Bogwood centrepiece in Céide Fields interpretative centre

### Céide Fields •

Road map B2. 8 km (5 miles) W of Ballycastle, Co Mayo. *Tel* 096 43325. for m Ballycastle. mid-Mar–Nov: daily. Me is ground floor. www.heritaqeireland.ie

Surrounded by heather-clad moorlands and mountains along a bleak, dramatic stretch of north Mayo coastline is Europe's largest Stone Age land enclosure. Over 10 sq km (4 sq miles) were enclosed by walls to make fields suitable for growing wheat and barley, and grazing cattle. Remains of farm buildings indicate that it was an extensive community. The fields were slowly buried below the creeping bog formation, where they have been preserved for 5,000 years.

Part of the bog has been cut away to reveal the collapsed stone walls of the ancient fields. The remains are simple but guides help visitors to find and recognize key features. Stone Age pottery and a primitive plough have been found in recent excavations. The striking, pyramid-shaped interpretative centre has a viewing platform overlooking the site, audiovisual presentations and displays on local geology and botany.

#### **Environs**

Scattered around the wilderness of the spectacular north Mayo coast from Ballina to the end of the Mullet peninsula is a series of sculptures forming the North Mayo Sculpture Trail. Created by 12 sculptors from three continents, the 15 works, often on a huge scale, are made from earth, stone and other natural materials; additional sculptures are planned. They aim to highlight the coast's grandeur and enduring nature.

### Achill Island 2

Road map A3. Co Mayo. from Westport. 098 47353. Jul & Aug. www.achilltourism.com

Ireland's largest island, 22 km (13.5 miles) long and 19 km (12 miles) wide, is reached by a road bridge that can be raised for boats to pass through. Achill offers moorland, mountains, rugged cliffs and long beaches, and is a popular spot for angling and water sports.

For motorists, the best introduction is the **Atlantic Coast Drive**, a circular, signposted route from Achill Sound, by the bridge. The road goes to the island's southern tip, then north around the rest of Achill. Between Doeega and Keel in the southwest run the dramatic Minaun Cliffs and Cathedral Rocks. In the north is Slieve-more, a mountain overlooking the village of Slievemore, which was abandoned during the Great Famine (see p219). Sharks can be spotted off Keem Bay in the west.

### 

Road map B3. Co Mayo. 🔼 4,700. James Street (098 25711). Thu. www.irelandwest.ie



marble staircase at Westport House

Westport is a neat town and has a bustling, prosperous air. In the 1770s, architect James Wyatt laid out the wide, treelined streets, including the North and South Mall on either side of Carrowbeg River. The town originally traded in yarn, cloth, beer and slate, but industrialization and the Great Famine (see p219) brought a dramatic decline until the 1950s when new industry and visitors were attracted to the area.

Beyond the South Mall is Bridge Street, lined with cafés and pubs; the most appealing is Matt Molloy's (see p350), named after and owned by the flautist from The Chieftains.

#### Westport House

Off Louisburgh Rd. *Tel* 098 27766.

Easter weekend; May: Sun only; Jun–Sep: daily.

www.westporthouse.ie

Just west of the town is the Carrowbeg estuary and Clew



The deserted village of Slievemore on Achill Island



Statue of St Patrick at the foot of Croagh Patrick, looking out to Clew Bay

Bog oak and

silver bowl from

Westport House

Bay. At the head of the bay stands Westport House, the seat of the Earls of Altamont. descendants of the Browne family, who were Tudor settlers. The town of Westport itself was started in the 1750s by John Browne, first Lord Altamont, to complement the house. Designed in 1732 by Richard Castle, and completed by James Wyatt in 1778, the limestone mansion stands on the site of an O'Malley castle. Its imposing interior includes a sweeping marble staircase and an elegant dining room and is adorned with

and is adorned with family portraits, antique Waterford chandeliers and 18th-century Chinese wallpaper. The estate has a boating lake, miniature railway, small zoo, museum, amusement arcade and several shops.

## Foxford Woollen Mills and Visitor Centre

St Joseph's Place. *Tel* 094 925 6756.

Good Fri, 24–26 Dec.

State of the Exhibition Centre

#### Knock 6

Road map B3. Co Mayo. A 575.

15 km (9 miles) N of Knock.

May-Sep: Knock (094 938 8193).

www.irelandwest.ie

In 1879, two local women saw an apparition of the Virgin, St Joseph and St John the Evangelist by the gable

> of the Church of St John the Baptist. It was witnessed by 13 more onlookers and validated by the Catholic Church amid claims of miracle cures. Every year, over a million believers make the pilgrimage to the shrine, including Pope John Paul II in 1979 and

Mother Teresa in 1993. Its focal point is the gable where the apparition was seen, which is now covered over to form a chapel. Nearby is the Basilica of Our Lady, a modern

Bottles of holy water for sale at the shrine in Knock

basilica and Marian shrine. Knock Museum, beside the basilica, portrays life in 19th-century rural Ireland. An Apparition section covers the background to the miracle.

## Knock Shrine and Museum

Tel 094 938 8100. May-Oct: daily; Nov-Apr: by appt. W K www.knock-shrine.ie

### Croagh Patrick 6

Road map B3. Murrisk, Co Mayo.

from Westport. Murrisk (098
45384), Westport (098 64114).

www.croaghpatrickcentre.ie

Ireland's holy mountain, named after the national saint (see p281), is one of Mayo's best-known landmarks. From the bottom it seems coneshaped, an impression dispelled by climbing to its flat peak. This quartzite, screeclad mountain has a history of pagan worship from 3000 BC. However, in AD 441, St Patrick is said to have spent 40 days on the mountain fasting and praying for the Irish.

Since then, penitents, often barefoot, have made the pilgrimage to the summit in his honour, especially on Garland Friday and Reek Sunday in July. From the start of the trail at Campbell's Pub in Murrisk, where there is huge statue of the saint, it is a two-hour climb to the top, at 765 m (2,510 ft). On Reek Sunday mass is celebrated on the peak in a modern chapel. A visitor centre has amenities for exhausted hikers.

### Foxford 4

Road map B3. Co Mayo. 1,000. ft 1,000. Westport (098 25711).

This tranquil market town is known for good angling in nearby Lough Conn and for its woven rugs and tweeds. In the town centre is Foxford Woollen Mills, founded in 1892 by an Irish nun, Mother Arsenius (originally named Agnes). The thriving mill now supplies top fashion houses. An audiovisual tour traces the mill's history, and visitors can see craftspeople at work.

### Clare Island 1

Road map A3. Co Mayo. 11 165. 12 from Roonagh Quay, 6.5 km (4 miles) W of Louisburgh 12 098 26307 (ferry services). 11 Westport (098 25711).

Clare Island, set in Clew Bay, is dominated by two hills, and a square 15th-century castle commands the headland and harbour. In the 16th century the island was the stronghold of Grace O'Malley, pirate queen and patriot, who held sway over the western coast. Although, according to Tudor state papers, she was received at Queen Elizabeth I's court, she stood out against English rule until her death in her seventies in 1603. She is buried here in a tiny Cistercian abbey decorated with medieval murals and inscribed with her motto-"Invincible on land and sea".

The island is dotted with Iron Age huts and field systems as well as promontory forts and Bronze Age cooking sites (see p170). Clare is rich in bog flora and fauna, making it popular with walkers. Animal lovers come to see the seals, dolphins, falcons and otters.

#### **Environs**

The mainland coastal village of **Louisburgh** offers rugged



The ferry to Inishbofin leaving Cleggan Harbour

Atlantic landscape, sheltered coves and sea angling. The Granuaile Centre tells the story of Grace O'Malley (*Granuaile* in Gaelic) and has displays on Mayo folklore and archaeology.

### Granuaile Centre

St Catherine's Church, Louisburgh.

Tel 098 66341. May—Sep: daily.

### Inishbofin 8

Road map A3. Co Galway. 🔼 200. 🖆 from Cleggan. 🚹 Clifden.

The name Inishbofin means "island of the white cow". This mysterious, often mist-swathed island was chosen for its remoteness by the exiled 7th-century St Colman, English Abbot of Lindisfarne. On the site of his original monastery is a late medieval church, graveyard and holy well. At the sheltered harbour

entrance lies a ruined castle, occupied in the 16th century by Spanish pirate Don Bosco in alliance with Grace O'Malley. In 1653 it was captured by Cromwellian forces and used as a prison for Catholic priests. Inishbofin was later owned by a succession of absentee landlords and now survives on farming and lobster-fishing.

Surrounded by reefs and islets, the island's landscape is characterized by stone walls, small abandoned cottages, reed-fringed lakes and hay meadows, where the corncrake (see p18) can be seen, or heard. Inishbofin's beaches offer bracing walks.

### 

Road map A3. Co Galway.

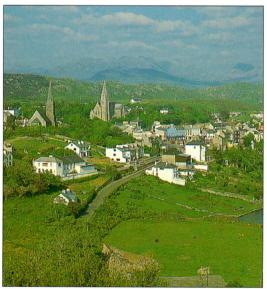
920. Mar-Nov: Galway
Road (095 21163). Tue & Fri.

www.irelandwest.ie

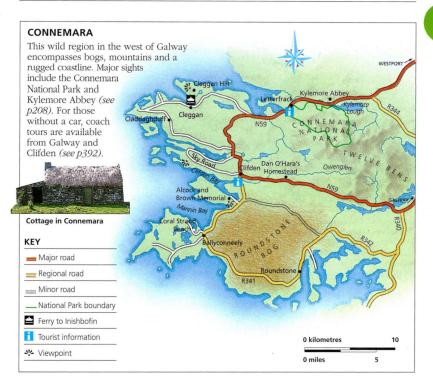
Framed by the grandeur of the Twelve Bens mountain range and with a striking skyline dominated by two church spires, this early 19th-century market town passes for the capital of the Connemara region and is a good base for exploring. Clifden was founded in 1812 by John d'Arcy, a local landowner and High Sheriff of Galway, to create a pocket of respectability within the lawlessness of Connemara. The family eventually went bankrupt trying to bring prosperity and order to the town. The Protestant church contains a copy of the Cross of Cong (see p67). Today craft shops have

taken over much of the town. In the centre is the Square, a place for lively pubs such as EJ Kings (see p349).

Connemara is noted for its sean-nos (unaccompanied



Clifden against a backdrop of the Twelve Bens mountains



singing), but in Clifden, general traditional music is more common.

Jutting out into **Clifden Bay** is a sand spit and beach, sign-posted from Clifden Square. South of Clifden, at the start of the Roundstone Road, is Owenglen Cascade where, in May, salmon leap on their way to spawn upstream.

#### **Environs**

The **Sky Road** is an 11-km (7-mile) circular route with stunning ocean views. The road goes northwest from Clifden

and passes desolate scenery and the narrow inlet of Clifden Bay. Clifden Castle, John d'Arcy's Gothic Revival ruin, lies just off the Sky Road, as do several inlets.

The coastal road north from Clifden to Cleggan, via Claddaghduff, is spectacular, passing former smuggling coves. Cleggan, a pretty fishirg village, nestles into the head of Cleggan Bay. From here boats leave for Inishbofin and Inishturk. Cleggan Hill has a ruined Napoleonic Martello tower and a megalithic tomb.

coastal route to Roundstone skirts a mass of bogland pitted with tiny lakes. The Alcock and Brown Memorial overlooks the bog landing site of the first transatlantic flight made by Alcock and Brown in 1919. Nearby is Marconi's wireless station, which exchanged the first transatlantic radio messages with Nova Scotia in 1907. The **Ballyconneely** area has craggy islands and the beautiful Coral Strand Beach. The village of Roundstone is best seen during the summer regatta of traditional Galway

To the south of Clifden, the

A short drive to the east of Clifden is **Dan O'Hara's Homestead**. In a wild, rocky setting, this organic farm recreates the tough conditions of life in Connemara before the 1840s. There is an audiovisual display on the history

hookers (see p211).

of Connemara.

Dan O'Hara's Homestead Heritage Centre, Lettershea, off N59. Tel 095 21246. Apr-end Oct: daily. Www.connemaraheritage.com



View of the coast from the Sky Road



The imposing Kylemore Abbey on the shores of Kylemore Lough

### Kylemore Abbey **©**

Road map A3. Connemara, Co Galway, Tel 095 41146. A from Galway and Clifden. A daily. Christmas & Good Fri. 2 groups call to book. Walled garden Mar-Nov. 2 III

Sheltered by the slopes of the Twelve Bens, this lakeside castle is a romantic, battlemented Gothic Revival fantasy. It was built as a present for his wife by Mitchell Henry (1826-1911), who was a Manchester tycoon and later Galway MP. The Henrys also purchased a huge area of moorland, drained the boggy hillside and planted thousands of trees as a windbreak for their new orchards and exotic walled gardens. After the sudden deaths of his wife and daughter, Henry left Kylemore and the castle was sold.

It became an abbey when Benedictine nuns, fleeing from Ypres in Belgium during World War I, sought refuge here. The nuns now run the abbey as a girls' boarding and day school. Visitors are restricted to partial access to the abbey, the grounds, restaurant and craft shop. The earthenware pottery is painted with a fuchsia motif.

There is also a restored Victorian walled garden in the grounds, featuring the longest double herbaceous borders in Ireland, a nuttery and a meandering stream-side walk.

### Connemara National Park **0**

A combination of bogland, lakes and mountains makes up this National Park in the heart of Connemara. Within its more than 2,000 ha (5,000 acres) are four of the Twelve Bens, including Benbaun, the highest mountain in the range at 730 m (2,400 ft), and the peak of Diamond Hill. At the centre is the valley of Glanmore and the Polladirk

River. Visitors come for the spectacular landscape and to glimpse the famous Connemara ponies.

Part of the land originally belonged to the Kylemore Abbey estate. In 1980 it became a National Park. There are traces of the land's previous uses all over the park: megalithic tombs, up to 4,000 years old, can be seen as well as old ridges marking former grazing areas and arable fields.

The park is open all year, while the Visitors' Centre near the entrance, just outside Letterfrack, is open only from March to October. It features displays on how the landscape developed and was used and on local flora and fauna. There is also an audiovisual theatre and an indoor picnic area. Three signposted walks start from the Visitors' Centre. In summer there are guided walks, some led by botanists, and various children's activities. Climbing the Twelve Bens should be attempted only by experienced walkers equipped for all weather conditions.

#### CONNEMARA WILDLIFE

The blanket bogs and moorlands of Connemara are a botanist's paradise, especially for unusual bog and heathland plants. Birdlife is also varied with hooded crows, which can be recognized by their grey and black plumage, stonechats, peregrines and merlins – the smallest falcons in the British Isles. Red deer have been successfully reintroduced into the area and a herd can be seen in the National Park. Badgers, foxes, stoats and otters may also be spotted, as well as grey seals along the rocky coast.



The merlin nests in old clumps of heather and feeds mainly on small birds.



**St Dabeoc's heath,** a pretty heather, grows nowhere else in Ireland or Great Britain.

### Cong @

Road map B3. Co Mayo. 350.

Mar–Nov (094 954 6542).

www.irelandwest.ie

This picturesque village lies on the shores of Lough Corrib, just within County Mayo. Cong means isthmus – the village lies on the strip of land between Lough Corrib and Lough Mask. During the 1840s, as a famine relief project, a canal was built linking the two lakes, but the water drained through the porous limestone bed. Stone bridges and stone-clad locks are still in place along the dry canal.

Cong Abbey lies close to the main street. The Augustinian abbey was founded in the early 12th century by Turlough O'Connor, King of Connaught

and High King of Ireland, on the site of a 6thcentury monastery established by St Fechin. The abbey has doorways in a style transitional between Romanesque and Gothic, stone carvings and restored cloisters. The Cross of Cong, an ornate processional cross intended for the abbey. is now in Dublin's

National Museum (see pp66–7). The most fascinating remains are the Gothic chapter house, stone bridges and the monks' fishing-house overhanging the river – the monks had a system where a bell rang in the kitchen when a fish took the bait.

Just south of Cong is Ashford Castle, rebuilt in Gothic Revival style in 1870 by Lord Ardilaun of the Guinness family. One of Ireland's best hotels (see p292), its grounds can be visited by boat from Galway and Oughterard. Cong was the setting for *The Quiet Man*, the 1950s' film starring John Wayne. "Quiet Man" tours cover locations near the castle.

### Lough Corrib ®

Road map B3. Co Galway. from Galway and Cong. from Oughterard and Wood Quay, Galway.

Oughterard (091 552808).

An angler's paradise, Lough Corrib offers the chance to fish with local fishermen for brown trout, salmon, pike, perch

and eels. Despite its

proximity to Galway, the lake is a haven of tranquillity, dotted with uninhabited islands and framed by meadows, reedbeds and wooded shores. The waterside is home to swans and coots.

On Inchagoill, one of the largest islands, stand the ruins of an early

Christian monastic settlement and a Romanesque church.

Carved 12th-century

doorway of Cong Abbey

The lake's atmosphere is best appreciated on a cruise. From Galway, the standard short cruise winds through the marshes to the site of an Iron Age fort, limestone quarries



View over Lough Corrib from the shore northwest of Oughterard

and the battlemented Menlo Castle. Longer cruises continue to Cong or include picnics on the islands.

#### **Environs**

On the banks of Lough Corrib, **Oughterard** is known as "the gateway to Connemara". The village has craft shops, thatched cottages and friendly pubs. It is also an important centre for golf, angling, hiking and pony trekking. Towards Galway City, **Brigit's Garden** in Roscahill has 4.45 ha (11 acres) of themed gardens.

About 4 km (2.5 miles) southeast of Oughterard (off the N59) is Aughnanure Castle. This well-restored six-storey tower house clings to a rocky island on the River Drimneen. The present castle, built by the O'Flaherty clan, is on the site of one dating from 1256. The clan controlled West Connaught from Lough Corrib to Galway and the coast in the 13th to 16th centuries. From this castle the feuding O'Flaherty chieftains held out against the British in the 16th century. In 1545 Donal O'Flaherty married the pirate Grace O'Malley (see p206). The tower house has an unusual double bawn (see b20) and a murder hole from which missiles could be dropped on invaders.



Connemara ponies roam semiwild and are fabled to be from Arab stock that came ashore from Spanish Armada wrecks.



Fuchsias grow profusely in the hedgerows of Connemara, thriving in the mild climate.

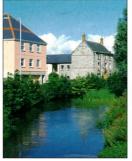
### Galway o



Sign with Claddagh ring design

Galway is both the centre for the Irish-speaking regions in the West and a lively university city. Under the Anglo-Normans, it flourished as a trading post. In 1396 it gained a Royal Charter and, for the next two centuries, was controlled by 14 merchant families, or "tribes". The city prospered under English influence, but this allegiance to

the Crown cost Galway dear when, in 1652, Cromwell's forces wreaked havoc. After the Battle of the Boyne (see p244), Galway fell into decline, unable to compete with east-coast trade. In recent years, as a developing centre for high-tech industry, the city's profile has been revived.



Houses on the banks of the Corrib

#### **Exploring Galway**

The centre of the city lies on the banks of the River Corrib, which flows down from Lough Corrib (see p209) widening out as it reaches Galway Bay. Urban renewal since the 1970s has led to extensive restoration of the narrow, winding streets of this once-walled city. Due to its compact size, Galway is easy to explore on

foot, and a leisurely pace provides plenty of opportunity to stop off at its shops, pubs and historic sights.

#### Eyre Square

The square encloses a pleasant park lined with imposing, mainly 19thcentury, buildings. On the northwest of the square is the Browne Doorway, a 17thcentury entrance from a mansion in Abbeygate Street Lower. Beside it is a fountain adorned with a sculpture of a Galway hooker boat. The Eyre

Square Centre, overlooking the park, is a modern shopping mall built to incorporate sections of the historic city Lynch family crest on walls. Walkways link Shoemakers and

Penrice towers, two of the 14 wall towers that used to ring the city in the 17th century.



restaurant and pub

#### **Latin Quarter**

From Eyre Square, William Street and Shop Street are the main routes into the bustling "Latin Quarter". On the corner of Abbeygate Street Upper and Shop Street stands Lynch's Castle, now a bank, but still the grandest 16thcentury town house in Galway. It was owned by the Lynch

A side street leads to the Collegiate Church of St Nicholas, Galway's finest medieval building. The

family, one of the 14 "tribes".

church, founded in 1320, was extended in the 15th and 16th centuries, but then damaged by the Cromwellians. who used it to stable horses. The west porch is from the 15th century and

there are some finely carved gargoyles under the parapet. Quay Street is lined with

Lynch's Castle

restaurants and pubs, including The Quays (see p349). Tí Neachtain is a town house which belonged to "Humanity Dick", an 18th-century MP who promoted laws against cruelty to animals. Today, it too is a restaurant and pub (see p349). Nearby are the Taibhdhearc and Druid theatres (see p358).



Outside dining at one of the cosmopolitan cafés in Shop Street

#### North Galway The Cathedral of St Nicholas (1965), built of local limestone and Connemara marble, stands on the west bank. From here you can see Wood Quay, where Lough Corrib cruises

start (see p209). National University of Ireland Galway,

#### **GALWAY HOOKERS**

Galway's traditional wooden sailing boats, featured on the city's coat of arms, were known as pucans and gleotogs hookers in English. They have broad black hulls, thick masts and white or rust-coloured sails. Once common in the Claddagh district, they were also used along the Atlantic coast to ferry peat, cattle and beer. Hookers can be seen in action at the Cruinniú na mBád festival in



Small Galway hooker sailing by the old quays and Spanish Arch

further west, is a large campus with a 1849 Gothic Revival quad. Salmon Weir Bridge links the two banks. Shoals of salmon rest under the bridge on their way upstream to spawn.

#### The Old Quays

The Spanish Arch, where the river opens out, was built in 1584 to protect the harbour, which was then outside the city walls. Here, Spanish traders unloaded their ships. The old quays are a tranquil spot for a stroll down the Long Walk to the docks.

### The Claddagh

Beyond the Spanish Arch, on the west bank of the Corrib, lies the Claddagh. The name comes from An Cladach. meaning "flat, stony shore". From medieval times, this fiercely independent fishing community bevond the city walls was governed by a "king", the last of whom died in 1954. The only remnants of this once close-knit, Gaelicspeaking community are Claddagh rings,

#### VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Road map B4. Co Galway. ₹ 56,000. X Carnmore, 11 km (7 miles) NE of Galway. 📮 Ceannt Station (091 561444). 📮 Ceannt Station (091 562000). The Fairgreen, Foster St (091 537700). A Sat. Galway Arts Festival (mid-Jul); Galway Races (late Jul-Aug); Oyster Festival (late Sep).

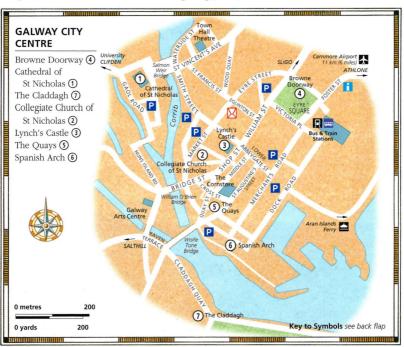
betrothal rings traditionally handed down from mother to daughter (see p356).

#### **Environs**

Just west of the city is Salthill, Galway's seaside resort. The beaches at Palmer's Rock and Grattan Road are particularly popular with families in summer. A bracing walk

along the promenade is still a Galway tradition.

Spanish Arch on the site of the former docks





Mural in the centre of Kinvarra depicting a shopfront

### Aran Islands 6

See pp214-15.

### Kinvarra 🛭

Road map B4. Co Galway. 550.

One of the most charming fishing villages on Galway Bay, Kinvarra's appeal lies in its sheltered, seaweed-clad harbour and traditional seafaring atmosphere. From medieval times, its fortunes were closely linked to Kilmacduagh, the powerful monastery and bishopric upon which the village depended.

The pier is bordered by a row of fishermen's cottages. Kinvarra remains a popular

port of call for sailors of traditional Galway hookers (see p211) and is known for the Cruinniú na mBád (gathering of the boats) festival in August. Rambles include historical and nature trails. Bird-watchers may spot teal. curlews and oystercatchers by the shore.

#### **Environs**

North of Kinvarra, on a promontory on the shore of Galway Bay, lies Dunguaire Castle. It is perched just beyond some quaint thatched cottages and a stone bridge. The castle is named after the 7th-century King Guaire of Connaught, whose court here was renowned as the haunt of bards and balladeers. Although the medieval earthworks survive, the present castle was built in the 16th century, a quintessential tower house (see p20) with sophisticated machicolations. The banqueting hall is still used for "medieval banquets" with Celtic harp music and the recital of Irish poetry.

### Kilmacduagh @

Road map B4. Outside Gort on Corofin Rd, Co Galway. a to Gort. daily.

This monastic settlement is in a remote location on the borders of Counties Clare and Galway, roughly 5 km (3 miles) southwest of Gort. The sense of isolation is accentuated by the stony moonscape of the Burren

to the west (see pp186–8). Reputedly founded by St Colman MacDuagh in the early 7th century, Kilmacduagh owes more to the monastic revival which led to rebuilding from the 11th century onwards.

The centrepiece of the extensive site is a large, slightly leaning 11th- or 12th-century round tower and a roofless church, known as the cathedral or Teampall. The cathedral is a pre-Norman structure, which was later remodelled in Gothic style, with flamboyant tracery and fine tomb carvings. In the surrounding fields lie the remains of several other churches that once depended on the monastery. To the northeast of the Teampall is the late medieval Glebe or Abbot's House, a variant of a 14th- or 15th-century tower house (see p20).

### Thoor Ballylee ®

Road map B4. Gort, Co Galway.

Ballylee Castle *Tel* 091 631436. 
to Gort. May–Sep: daily. Call to check times.

For much of the 1920s, this beguiling tower house was a summer home to the poet WB Yeats (see pp22–3). Yeats was a regular visitor to nearby Coole Park, the home of his friend Lady Gregory (1852–1932), who was a cofounder of the Abbey Theatre (see p88).

On one visit Yeats came upon Ballylee Castle, a 14th-century de Burgo tower adjoining a cosy cottage with a walled garden and stream. In 1902, both the tower and the cottage became part of the Gregory estate and Yeats bought them in 1916. From 1919 onwards, his family divided their time between



Round tower and cathedral, the most impressive monastic remains at Kilmacduagh

Dublin and their Galway tower. Yeats used the name Thoor Ballvlee as the address, using the Irish word for tower to "keep people from suspecting us of modern gothic and a deer park". His collection, The Tower (1928), includes several poems inspired by the house.

Today, the audiovisual tour includes readings from Yeats's poetry, but the charm of a visit lies in the tower itself, with its spiral stone steps and views from the battlements over forest and farmland.

#### Environs

Just to the north of Gort is Coole Park, once the home of Lady Gregory. Although the house was demolished in the 1950s, the estate farm has been restored and the fine gardens survive. In particular, there is the "autograph tree". a spreading copper beech carved with the initials of George Bernard Shaw, IM Synge (see pp22-3), Jack Yeats (see p70) and other famous visitors. In the farm buildings is an audiovisual display. The emphasis of the visitors' centre is on natural history: it is the start of two signposted walks, one around the gardens and the other through beech, hazel, birch and ash woodland to Coole Lake.

#### Coole Park

3 km (2 miles) NE of Gort. Tel 091 631804. Visitors' centre Eastermid-Jun: Tue-Sun; mid-Jun-Sep: daily; park open all year. 💋 📘 👢 limited.



Thoor Ballylee tower house, the summer home of WB Yeats



Gentle hills and woodland by Coole Lake in Coole Park

### Portumna @

Road map C4. Co Galway. A 1,200. Galway (091 537700). A Fri.

Portumna is a historic market town with scattered sights, many of which are newly restored. Situated on Lough Derg, it is a convenient base for cruising the River Shannon (see p185) and has a modern marina. Portumna Castle, built in the early 17th century, was the main seat of the de Burgo family. Now partially restored, it has a symmetrical façade and some elaborate interior stonework. The facade surveys formal gardens. Near the castle

is Portumna Priory. Most of the remains date

from around 1414 when the priory was founded by the Dominicans, but traces can also be found of the Cistercian abbey that was previously on the site. The large de Burgo estate to the west of the town now forms Portumna Forest Park, with picnic sites and signposted woodland trails leading to Lough Derg.

### Clonfert Cathedral @

Road map C4. Clonfert, Co Galway. daily.

Situated near a bleak stretch of the Shannon bordering the boglands of the Midlands, Clonfert is one of the jewels of Irish-Romanesque architecture. The tiny cathedral occupies the site of a monastery, which was founded by St Brendan in AD 563, and is believed to be the burial place of the saint.

Although a great scholar and

enthusiastic founder of mon-

asteries, St Brendan is best known as the "great navigator". His journeys are recounted in Navigatio Sancti Brendani, written in about 1050, which survives in medieval manuscripts in several languages including Flemish, Norse and French. The account seems to describe a voyage to Wales, the Orkneys, Iceland and conceivably the east coast of

North America. His vovage and his boat tympanum at Clonfert Cathedral (see p190), have been re-

created by modern explorers in an attempt to prove that St Brendan may have preceded

Human heads carved on the

Columbus by about 900 years. The highlight of Clonfert is its intricately sculpted sandstone doorway. The round arch above the door is decorated with animal and human heads, geometrical shapes, foliage and symbolic motifs. The carvings on the triangular tympanum above the arch are of strange human heads. In the chancel, the 13th-century east windows are fine examples of late Irish-Romanesque art. The 15th-century chancel arch is adorned with sculptures of angels and a mermaid. Although Clonfert was built over several centuries and altered in the 17th century, the church has a profound sense of unity.

### Aran Islands 6



Jaunting car on Inishmore

Inishmore, Inishmaan and Inisheer, the three Aran Islands, are formed from a limestone ridge. The largest, Inishmore, is 13 km (8 miles) long and 3 km (2 miles) wide. The attractions of these islands include the austere landscape crisscrossed with drystone walls, stunning coastal views and several large prehistoric stone forts. In the 5th

century, St Enda brought Christianity to the islands, starting a long monastic tradition. Protected for centuries by their isolated position, the islands today are a bastion of traditional Irish culture. Farming, fishing and tourism are the main occupations of the islanders.



Looking over the cliff edge at Dún Aonghasa

Dún Eoghanachta

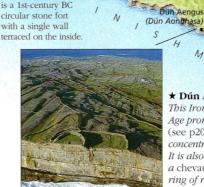
Clochán na Carraige is a large, wellpreserved beehive hut (see p21), probably built by early Christian settlers on the islands.

The Seven Churches (Na Seacht dTeampail)



Na Seacht dTeampaill

The so-called Seven Churches make up a monastic settlement dedicated to St Brecan. Built between the 9th and 15th centuries, some are probably domestic buildings.



Dún Eoghanachta

## ★ Dún Aonghasa

Clochán na Carraige

KILMURVY

(Cill Mhuirbhigh)

This Iron or Bronze
Age promontory fort
(see p20), bas four
concentric stone walls.
It is also protected by
a chevaux de frise, a
ring of razor-sharp,
pointed stone stakes.

#### **ARAN TRADITIONS**



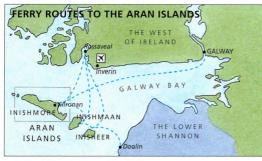
Colourful Aran costume

The islands are famous for their distinctive knitwear (see p354) and for the traditional Aran costume that is still worn: for women this consists of a red flannel skirt and crocheted shawl; for men it includes a sleeveless tweed jacket and a colourful knitted belt. From time to time you also see a currach or low rowing boat,

the principal form of transport for centuries. Land-making, the ancient and arduous process of creating soil by covering bare rock with sand and seaweed, continues to this day.



Currach made from canvas coated in tar



#### Kilmurvey Beach

The attractive sandy beach east of Kilmurvy offers safe swimming in a sheltered cove. The town itself is a quiet place to stay near a number of the island's most important sights.

#### VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Road map A4, B4. Co Galway. 900. Trom Connemara Airport, Inverin (091 593034). from Rossaveal: Island Ferries (www.aranislandferries.com, 091 568903), Doolin Ferry Company (Easter-Oct only; 065 707 4189). Ferries sail throughout the year; some go to all three main islands. Phone for details. Cars cannot be taken to the islands. From Kilronan, you can hire bicycles and jaunting cars, or

Rilronan, Inishmore (099 61263). Aran Heritage Centre Kilronan. Tel 099 61355. Apr-May,

go on minibus tours (099 61169).

Sep-Oct: 11am-5pm daily; Jun-Aug: 10am-7pm daily. 666

www.irelandwest.ie



#### **★** Kilronan

The Aran Islands' main port is a busy place, with jaunting cars (ponies and traps) and minibuses waiting by the pier to give island tours; bicycles can also be bired. Nearby, the fascinating Aran Heritage Centre is dedicated to the disappearing Aran way of life.

#### STAR SIGHTS

- ★ Dún Aonghasa
- \* Dún Duchathair
- \* Kilronan

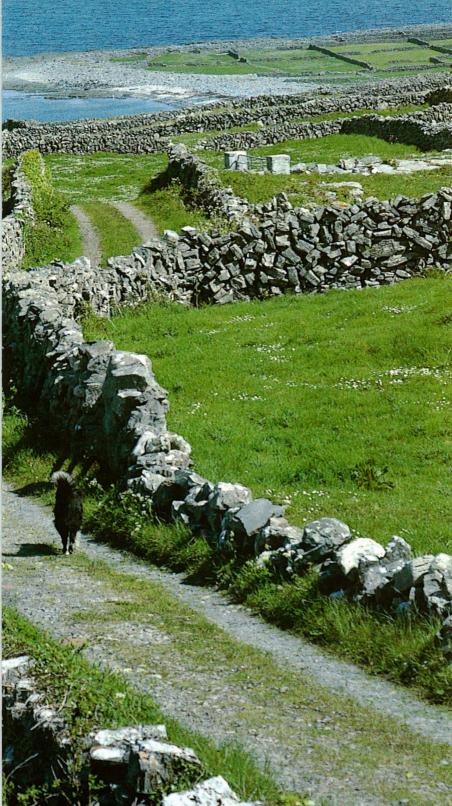
★ Dún Duchathair Built on a headland, this Iron Age

construction is known as the Black Fort. It has dry-stone ramparts.

Viewpoint

0 kilometres







East wall and gatehouse at Roscommon Castle

### Turoe Stone **4**

Road map B4. Turoe, Bullaun, Loughrea, Co Galway. *Tel* 091 841580. May–Sep: daily; Oct–Apr: weekends and public hols.

The Turoe Stone stands at the centre of a large area of parkland, the Turoe Pet Farm and Leisure Park, near the village of Bullaun (on the R350). The white granite boulder, which stands about 1 m (3 ft) high, dates back to the 3rd or 2nd century BC. Its top half is carved with curvilinear designs in a graceful Celtic style, known as La Tène, also found in Celtic parts of Europe, particularly Brittany. The lower half has a smooth section and a band of steppattern carving. The stone was originally found at an Iron Age ring fort nearby, and is thought to have been used there in fertility rituals.

The park around the Turoe Stone is designed mainly for children. The Pet Farm has some small fields containing farm animals and a pond with several varieties of ducks and geese. There is also a wooded



The Celtic Turoe Stone carved with graceful swirling patterns

riverside walk, a picnic area, tea rooms, a playground and a 6,000 sq ft (558 sq m) "inflatable city" bouncy castle.

### Roscommon @

The county capital is a busy market town. In Main Street is the former gaol, which had a woman as its last executioner. "Lady Betty", as she was known, was sentenced to death for the murder of her son in 1780, but negotiated a pardon by agreeing to become a hangwoman. She continued for 30 years.

South of the town centre, just off Abbey Street, is the **Dominican Friary**, founded in 1253 by Felim O'Conor, King of Connaught. Set in the north wall of the choir is a late 13th-century effigy of the founder.

Roscommon Castle, an Anglo-Norman fortress north of the town, was built in 1269 by Robert d'Ufford, Lord Justice of Ireland, and rebuilt 11 years later after being destroyed by the Irish led by Hugh O'Conor, King of Connaught. The rectangular castle has 16thcentury mullioned windows.

#### Clonalis House 3

Road map B3. Castlerea, Co Roscommon. *Tel* 094 962 0014. Jun-mid-Sep: Mon-Sat.

This Victorian manor just outside Castlerea is the ancestral home of the O'Conors, the last High Kings of Ireland and Kings of Connaught. This old Gaelic family can trace its heritage back 1,500 years. The ruins of their gabled 17th-century home are visible in the grounds. On the lawn lies the O'Conor inauguration stone, dating from 90 BC.

The interior includes a Venetian hallway, a library of many books and documents recording Irish history, a tiny private chapel and a gallery of family portraits spanning 500 years. In the billiard room is the harp once played by Turlough O'Carolan (1670–1738), blind harpist and last of the Gaelic bards (see p24).

### Strokestown Park House **2**

Road map C3. Strokestown, Co Roscommon. House, Pleasure Gardens and Museum Tel 071 963 3013. Mid-Mar-Oct: daily; Novmid-Mar: by appt. Mid-Mar. by appt. by appt. Mid-Mar. by appt. by appt. by appt. Mid-Mar. by appt. by appt. by appt. by appt. by appt. by appt. by

Strokestown Park House, the greatest Palladian mansion in County Roscommon, was built in the 1730s for Thomas Mahon, an MP whose family was granted the lands by Charles II after the Restoration. It incorporates an earlier 17thcentury tower house (see p20). The design of the new house owes most to Richard Castle, architect of Russborough (see p132). The galleried kitchen, panelled stairwell and groinvaulted stables are undoubtedly his work, tailoring Palladian principles to the requirements of the Anglo-Irish gentry.

The house stayed in the family's hands until 1979, when major restoration began. In its heyday, the estate included ornamental parkland, a deer

park, folly, mausoleum and the village of Strokestown itself. By 1979, the estate's original 12,000 ha (30,000 acres) had dwindled to 120 ha (300 acres), but recent recreation of the Pleasure Gardens and the Fruit and Vegetable Garden have greatly increased the area.

Set in the stable yards, the Famine Museum uses the Strokestown archives to tell the story of tenants and landlords during the 1840s Famine. During the crisis, landlords divided into two camps: the charitable, some of whom started up Famine Relief schemes, and the callous, like the Mahons of Strokestown. Major Denis Mahon was murdered after forcing twothirds of the starving peasantry off his land by a combination of eviction and passages in "coffin ships" to North America. A section of the exhibition deals with continuing famine and malnutrition worldwide.

### Boyle 3

Road map C3. Co Roscommon.

2,200. Apr-Oct: King
House (071 966 3242). Fri.

County Roscommon's most charming town, Boyle is blessed with fine Georgian and medieval architecture. **Boyle Abbey** is a well-preserved Cistercian abbey founded in 1161 as a sister house to Mellifont in County Louth (see p245). It survived raids by Anglo-Norman barons and Irish chieftains, as well as the 1539 suppression of the monasteries. In 1659 it was

#### THE GREAT FAMINE

The failure of the Irish potato crop in 1845, 1846 and 1848, due to potato blight, had disastrous consequences for the people of Ireland, many of whom relied on this staple crop. More than a million died of starvation and disease, and by 1856 over two and a half million had been forced to emigrate. The crisis was worsened by unsympathetic landlords who often continued collecting rents. The Famine had far-reaching effects: mass emigration became a way of life (see pp42–3) and many rural communities, particularly in the far west, were decimated.



Peasants queuing for soup during the Famine (1847)

turned into a castle. The abbey is still remarkably intact, with a church, cloisters, cellars, sacristy and even kitchens. The nave of the church has both Romanesque and Gothic arches and there are well-preserved 12th-century capitals. The visitors' centre in the old

gatehouse has exhibits on the abbey's history.

King House, a Palladian mansion near the centre of town, is the ancestral home of the Anglo-Irish King family, later Earls of Kingston. Inside is a contemporary

art gallery, and displays on various subjects, such as Georgian architecture and the mansion's restoration, the history of the surrounding area and the Connaught chieftains.



⚠ King House
Main St. *Tel* 071 966 3242. ☐ AprSep: daily; rest of year on request.

☐ ☐ & ☐ on request.

#### Environs

Carved capital in the

nave at Boyle Abbey

Lough Key is often called the loveliest lake in

weliest lake in
Ireland. The islandstudded lake and
surrounding
woodland make
a glorious setting
for the **Lough** 

Key Forest Park. The 320-ha (790-acre) park formed part of the Rocking-

ham estate until 1957, when Rockingham House, a John Nash design. burned down. The extensive woods were added by 18thcentury landlords. Other features of the park include nature trails, an observation tower, a 17th-century ice house, a deer enclosure and, by the lake, a 17th-century gazebo known as the Temple. The park also has several ring forts (see p20). From the jetty, cruisers ply the Boyle River. A river bus visits Church and Trinity Islands, which both contain medieval ruins, and Castle Island, which has a





The gatehouse and remains of the nave at Boyle Abbey



## NORTHWEST IRELAND

DONEGAL · SLIGO · LEITRIM

owering cliffs, deserted golden beaches and rocky headlands abound along the rugged coast of Donegal, which incorporates some of Ireland's wildest scenery. To the south, Sligo is steeped in prehistory and Celtic myth, with its legacy of ancient monuments and natural beauty enriched by associations with the poet, WB Yeats. By contrast, Leitrim is a quiet county of unruffled lakes and waterways.

In Celtic mythology Sligo was the power base of the warrior Queen Maeve of Connaught (see p26), and the county's legacy of prehistoric sites shows that the area was heavily populated in Celtic times. Later, however, both County Sligo and neighbouring County Leitrim often seemed to be little affected by events taking place in the rest of Ireland. The Normans, for example, barely dis-

turbed the rule of local Gaelic clans. Donegal, on the other hand, was part of Ulster until 1921 and played an active role in that province's history. The O'Donnells held sway over most of Donegal in the Middle Ages, but they fled to Europe in 1607 following their ill-fated stand against the English alongside the O'Neills (see p255). Protestant settlers moved on to land

confiscated from the two clans, but they left much of Donegal and its poor soil to the native Irish, who lived there in isolation from the rest of Ulster. This remote corner of the province remained largely

Catholic and, at the time of Partition in 1921, Donegal was excluded from the new Protestant Northern Ireland.

County Donegal has little in common with its neighbours in the Republic, either geographically or historically. It is one of the most remote parts of Ireland, and it is no coincidence that Donegal boasts the country's largest number of Gaelic speakers.

While the beauty of Donegal lies mainly along the coast, Sligo's finest landscapes are found inland, around Lough Gill and among the sparsely populated Bricklieve Mountains.



The 19th-century interior of Hargadon's bar in Sligo town, with its original counter and stout jars

## **Exploring Northwest Ireland**

The supreme appeal of Donegal lies in the natural beauty of its coast, with windswept peninsulas, precipitous cliffs and a host of golden beaches. There is a scattering of small seaside resorts which make good bases, and Donegal town is well placed for exploring 1 TORY ISLA the southern part of the county. The cultural heartland of the Northwest lies in and around Sligo, the only size-HORN HEAD able town in the region, from where you can reach several prehistoric remains and other historic sights. Dunfanagh BLOODY 2 **FORELAND** Further south, lovely scenery surrounds Lough Gortahe Gill and the more remote Lough Arrow. In Gola Island Leitrim, a county of lakes and rivers, the Bunbec Owey Island main centre of activity is the lively boating Rosses resort of Carrick-on-Shannon. Burtonport DERRYVEA Aran MOUNTAL Island Dungloe Croby Head Gweebarra Bay Narin 9 Glenties Loughros Pt 1 ARDARA Glengesh Pass GLENCOLUMBKILLE 12 Malin More DONEGAL Malin Beg 6 SLIEVE LEAGUE 14 KILLYBEGS ROSSNOWLAGH 1 **BALLYSHANNON 18** Procession during the Mary of Dungloe beauty contest in July Mullaghmore Tough Inishmurray = SEE ALSO Grange 20 YEATS THE ORGA • Where to Stay pp312-14 CENTRE LISSADELL HOUSE 19 # · Restaurants, Cafés and Pubs Rosses Point pp339-41 & p350 Sligo Bay Killala Dromore Ballysadare Dromahair Thene Campboi Inniscrone Dowra The Ox Mountains Collooney Drumkeeran Lough Ballina # Allen KEY LOUGH R20 Ballymote 23 ARROW shanbo Major road Keadew Ballinafad Secondary road Lei Lough Gorteen Minor road Charlestown Lough Boyle Scenic route 24 CARRICK-O Main railway Ballaghaderreen SHANNON Minor railway Roscommon National border County border 0 kilometres 20 Summit 0 miles 20

#### **GETTING AROUND** The N56, linking Letterkenny and Inishtrabull 🗻 Donegal, provides access to much of the Northwest's best scenery, with Ballyhillin Malin Head minor roads branching off it around the coast's rocky peninsulas. A few buses serve this route, but travelling Ballyliffin around without a car is easier further south, with buses running daily from Donegal along the N15 to Sligo via Greencastle Ballyshannon. The rail network Moville barely reaches the Northwest, though NISHOWEN there are daily trains between Sligo PENINSUL and Carrick-on-Shannon. Buncrana eslough Rathmelton Bridgeno Kilmacrenan 8 GRIANAN AILIGH Londonderry 1 9 LETTERKENNY Thatched cottage near Malin Head on Inishowen Peninsula Lifford norlar Q Castlefinn Ballybofey Omagh SIGHTS AT A GLANCE Ardara 1 Lough Derg 16 Ballyshannon 🔞 Organic Centre 25 Bloody Foreland 2 Parke's Castle 21 Carrick-on-Shannon 24 Rosguill Peninsula 6 Derryveagh Mountains 3 DERG LOUGH The Rosses 10 Donegal 13 Rossnowlagh 17 Pettigoe Fanad Peninsula 6 Slieve League 13 Glencolumbkille 12 Sligo 22 Grianán Ailigh 8 Lower Tory Island 1 Lough Erne Horn Head 4 skillen **Tours** Killybegs 14 Inishowen Peninsula 7 Letterkenny 9 Yeats Country 20 Lissadell House 19

killen

Mohill omod

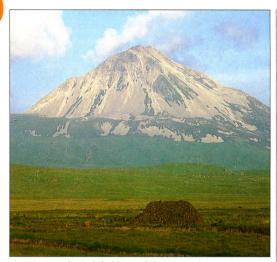
Longford

Ballinamore

Carrigallen



View from Carrowkeel Bronze Age cemetery above Lough Arrow



Quartzite cone of Errigal, the highest of the Derryveagh Mountains

### Tory Island •

The turbulent Tory Sound separates this windswept island from the northwestern corner of mainland Donegal. Given that rough weather can cut off the tiny island for days, it is not surprising that Tory's inhabitants have developed a strong sense of independence. Most of the islanders speak Gaelic and they even have their own monarch: the powers of this non-hereditary position are minimal, but the current incumbent is heavily involved in promoting the interests of his "subjects" and in attracting visitors to the island.

During the 1970s, the Irish government tried to resettle most of the islanders on the mainland, but they refused to move. Their campaign of resistance was led by Tory's school of Primitive artists. This emerged after 1968, inspired by a local man called James Dixon who claimed he could do better than a visiting English painter, Derek Hill. Since then, the school of artists has drawn a growing number of tourists; the Dixon Gallery opened in 1992 in the main village of West Town. There

are ruins of a monastery founded by St Columba (see p34) nearby, or else you can explore the island's dramatic cliffs and seabird rookeries.

⚠ Dixon Gallery
West Town. *Tel* 074 913 5011.

☐ Easter–Sep: daily.

### Bloody Foreland 2

**Road map** C1. Co Donegal. (a) to Bunbeg from Letterkenny or Dungloe.

Bloody Foreland, which gets its name from the rubescent glow of the rocks at sunset, boasts magnificent scenery. The R257 road skirts the coast around the headland, providing lovely views. The most scenic viewpoint is on the

north coast and looks across to the cliffs of nearby offshore islands, including Tory. A short distance further south, the tiny village of **Bunbeg** has a pretty harbour, but elsewhere the rocky landscape is spoiled by a blanket of holiday bungalows.

### Derryveagh Mountains 3

Road map C1. Co Donegal.

The wild beauty of these mountains provides one of the high spots of a visit to Donegal. Errigal Mountain, the range's tallest peak at 751 m (2,466 ft), attracts keen hikers, but the cream of the mountain scenery lies within Glenveagh National Park. Covering nearly 16,500 ha (40,000 acres), this takes in the beautiful valley occupied by Lough Veagh, and Poisoned Glen, a marshy valley enclosed by dramatic cliffs. The park also protects the largest herd of red deer in the country.

Glenveagh Castle stands on the southern shores of Lough Veagh, near the visitors' centre. This splendid granite building was constructed in 1870 by John Adair, notorious for his eviction of many families from the area after the Famine (see p219). The castle was given to the nation in the 1970s by its last owner, a wealthy art dealer from Pennsylvania.

Minibuses whisk you up the private road to the castle from the visitors' centre. You can go on a guided tour of the sumptuous interior or just stroll



Glenveagh Castle overlooking Lough Veagh



Looking across to Dunfanaghy, gateway to the Horn Head peninsula

through the formal gardens and rhododendron woods. Trails weave all around the castle grounds; one path climbs steeply to reward you with a lovely view over Lough Veagh.

**Glebe House and Gallery** overlooks Lough Gartan 6 km (4 miles) south of the visitors' centre.

This modest Regency mansion was the home of the painter, Derek Hill, who was also a keen collector. The house reveals his varied tastes, with William Morris wallpapers, Islamic ceramics and

paintings by
Tory Island artists. The gallery
contains works by
Picasso, Renoir
and Jack B Yeats
among others.



The Colmcille Heritage Centre, less than a kilometre south, uses stained glass and illuminated manuscripts to trace the life of St Columba (Colmcille in Gaelic), who was born in nearby Church Hill in AD 521 (see p34). A flagstone in Lacknacoo is said to mark the site of the saint's birthplace.

## Glenveagh National Park and Castle

☐ Glebe House and Gallery
Tel 074 913 7071. ☐ Easter & May

-Sep: Sat-Thu. [6] & Iimited. [6]

### Horn Head 4

Road map C1. Co Donegal. A to Dunfanaghy from Letterkenny.
The Workhouse, Dunfanaghy (074) 913 6540) mid-Mar–mid-Oct.

Carpeted in heather and rich in birdlife, Horn Head is the most scenic of the northern Donegal headlands. It rises 180 m (600 ft) straight out of the Atlantic and gives lovely views out to sea and inland towards the mountains. The appeal of the area is enhanced by **Dunfanaghy**, a delightful town with an air of affluence and Presbyterianism unusual in this area. The local beach, **Killahoey Strand**, offers excellent swimming.

### Rosguill Peninsula **6**

Road map C1. Co Donegal.

Rosguill Peninsula juts out into the Atlantic Ocean between Sheephaven and Mulroy bays. The simplest

way to see it is to follow the 11-km (7-mile) Atlantic Drive, a circular route which skirts the clifftops at the tip of the headland.

Doe Castle, 5 km (3 miles) north of Creeslough village, is worth a visit as much for its setting on a pro-montory overlooking Sheephaven Bay as for its architectural or historical interest. It has been restored from the remains of a castle erected in the 16th century by the MacSweeneys, a family of Scottish mercenaries.

### Fanad Peninsula 6

Road map C1. Co Donegal. (a) to Rathmelton & Portsalon from Letterkenny.

A panoramic route winds between the hilly spine and rugged coast of this tranquil peninsula. The eastern side is by far the most enjoyable and begins at **Rathmelton**, a charming Plantation town founded in the 17th century. Elegant Georgian homes and handsome old warehouses flank its tree-lined Main Street.

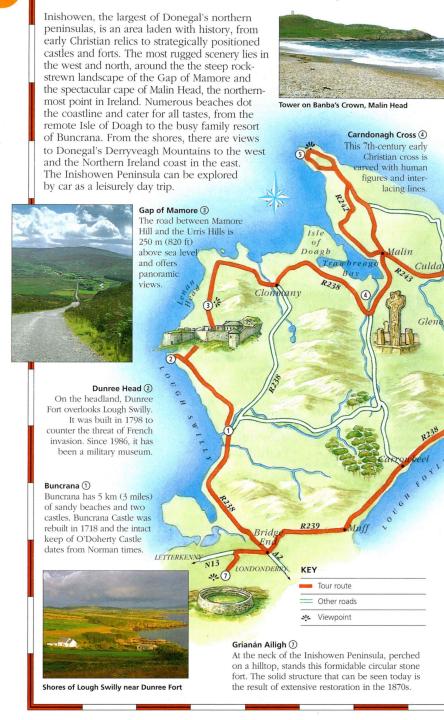
Further north, **Portsalon** offers safe bathing and great views from nearby Saldanha

Head. Near **Doaghbeg**, on the way to Fanad Head in the far north, the cliffs have been eroded into arches and other dramatic shapes.



Doe Castle on Rosguill Peninsula, with its 16th-century battlements

## A Tour of the Inishowen Peninsula •



#### TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Tour length: 157 km (98 miles). Stopping-off points: Malin, Greencastle and Carndonagh all have pubs and eating places; picnic sites are dotted around the coast. The Guns of Dunree Military Museum has a café. There is a 3 km (1.8 mile) scenic walk between Moville and Greencastle. (See also pp387-9.)



Malin Head (5)

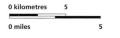
This traditional cottage makes a good stop for tea after enjoying the superb Atlantic views from Malin Head. At the highest point, Banba's Crown, stands a tower built in 1805 to monitor shipping.





Greencastle 6

A resort and fishing port, Greencastle is named after the overgrown castle ruins just outside town. Built in 1305 by Richard de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, the castle guarded the entrance to Lough Foyle.





Enjoying the views from the ramparts of the Grianán of Ailigh

## Grianán Ailigh 🛭

Road map C1. Co Donegal. from Letterkenny or Londonderry.
Burt (074 936 8512).

Donegal's most impressive and intriguing ancient monument stands just 10 km (6 miles) west of the city of Londonderry (see pp.258–9) at the entrance to the lovely Inishowen Peninsula.

Overlooking Lough Swilly and Lough Foyle, the circular stone structure, measuring 23 m (77 ft) in diameter, is believed to have been built as a pagan temple around the 5th century BC, although the site was probably a place of worship before this date. Later, Christians adopted the fort: St Patrick is said to have baptized Owen, founder of the O'Neill dynasty, here in AD 450. It became the royal residence of the O'Neills, but was damaged in the 12th century by the army of Murtagh O'Brien, King of Munster.

The fort was restored in the 1870s. Two doorways lead from the outside through 4-m (13-ft) thick defences into a grassy arena ringed by three terraces. The most memorable feature of the fort, however, is its magnificent vantage point, which affords stunning views in every direction.

At the foot of the hill stands an attractive church, dedicated to St Aengus and built in 1967. Its circular design echoes that of the Grianán.

### Letterkenny 9

Road map C1. Co Donegal.

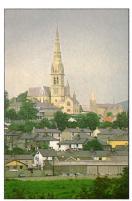
12,000. Blaney Rd (074
912 1160). www.irelandnorthwest.ie

Straddling the River Swilly, with the Sperrin Mountains to the east and the Derryveagh Mountains (see pp224–5)

to the west, Letterkenny is Donegal's largest town. It is also the region's main business centre, a role it took over from Londonderry after partition in 1921. The likeable town makes a good base from which to explore the northern coast of Donegal and, for anglers, is well placed for access to the waters of Lough Swilly.

Letterkenny has one of the longest main streets in Ireland, which is dominated by the 65-m (215-ft) steeple of St Eunan's Cathedral. A Neo-Gothic creation built in the late 19th century, it looks particularly impressive when floodlit at night. It contains Celtic-style stonework, a rich marble altar and vivid stainedglass windows. The County Museum has increased in size over the last couple of years and offers informative displays on local history from the Stone Age to the 20th century. It also has a collection of archaeological artifacts found in Donegal, some of them dating from the Iron Age.

### 



The imposing spire of St Eunan's Cathedral in Letterkenny



Isolated cottage near Burtonport in the Rosses

### The Rosses @

Road map C1. Co Donegal. [5] to Dungloe or Burtonport from Letterkenny. 🚹 Jun-Sep: Main St, Dungloe (074 952 1297). 🔛 to Aranmore from Burtonport (074 952 0532).

A rocky headland dotted with more than 100 lakes, the Rosses is one of the most picturesque and unspoilt corners of Donegal. It is also a strong Gaeltacht area, with many people speaking Gaelic.

The hub of the Rosses, at the southern end of the headland. is **Dungloe**, a bustling market town and major angling centre.

#### Environs

There is a glorious sheltered beach 8 km (5 miles) west of Dungloe at Maghery Bay. From here you can also walk to nearby Crohy Head, known for its caves, arches and unusual cliff formations. From Burtonport, 8 km (5 miles) north of Dungloe, car ferries sail daily to Donegal's largest island, Aranmore. The rugged northwest coast is ideal for clifftop walks, and from the south coast you can enjoy fine views across to the Rosses. Most of Aranmore's population of 700 lives in Leabgarrow. The village's thriving pub culture is due partly to the granting of 24hour licences, for the benefit of fishermen returning from sea.

### Ardara 🛭

Road map C2. Co Donegal. 700. from Killybegs or Donegal.

Triona Design Visitors' Centre (074 954 1422).

www.trionadesign.com

Ardara, the weaving capital of Donegal, proliferates in shops selling locally made tweeds and hand-knitted sweaters.



Old irons at the Folk Village Museum in Glencolumbkille

10 km (6 miles) west of town, provides dramatic coastal views. Another

Some larger stores put on displays of hand-loom weaving. Ardara is also worth a stop for its pubs, much loved for their

A drive along the narrow peninsula to Loughros Point,

fiddle sessions. **Environs** 

picturesque route runs southwest from Ardara to Glencolumbkille, going over Glengesh Pass, a series of bends through a wild, deserted landscape.



Hand-loom worker in Ardara

### Glencolumbkille @

Road map B2. Co Donegal. 260. from Killybegs. R Cashel St (074 973 0116) or Donegal (074 972 1148). www.irelandnorthwest.ie

Glencolumbkille, a quiet, grassy valley scattered with brightly coloured cottages, feels very much like a backwater, in spite of the sizeable number of visitors who come here.

The "Glen of St Colmcille" is a popular place of pilgrimage due to its associations with the saint more commonly known as St Columba. Just north of the village of Cashel, on the way to Glen Head, is the church where St Columba worshipped: it is said that between prayers the saint slept on the two stone slabs still visible in one corner.

Another attraction here is the Folk Village Museum, which depicts rural Donegal lifestyles through the ages. It was started in the 1950s by a local priest called Father James



Slieve League, the highest sea cliffs in Europe

MacDyer. Concerned about the high rate of emigration from this poor region, he sought to provide jobs and a sense of regional pride, partly by encouraging people to set up craft cooperatives. The Folk Village shop sells local wares, and has a good stock of wine – made of anything from seaweed to fuchsias.

There is plenty to explore in the valley, which is littered with cairns, dolmens and other ancient monuments. The nearby coast is lovely too, the best walks taking you west across the grassy foreland of **Malinbeg**. Beyond the small resort of Malin More, steps drop down to an idyllic sandy cove hemmed in by cliffs.

⚠ Folk Village Museum
Cashel. *Tel* 074 973 0017.

Easter–Sep: daily. Ø ☑ □ 1 & &

### Slieve League ®

Road map B2. Co Donegal. to Carrick from Glencolumbkille or Killybegs.

The highest cliff face in Europe, Slieve League is spectacular not just for its sheer elevation but also for its colour: at sunset the rock is streaked with changing shades of red, amber and ochre. The 8-km (5-mile) drive to the eastern end of Slieve League from Carrick is bumpy but well worth enduring. Beyond Teelin, the road becomes a

series of alarming switchbacks before reaching **Bunglass Point** and Amharc Mor, the "good view". From here, you can see the whole of Slieve League, its sheer cliffs rising dramatically out of the ocean.

Only experienced hikers should attempt the treacherous ledges of One Man's Pass. This is part of a trail which climbs westwards out of Teelin and up to the highest point of Slieve League - from where you can admire the Atlantic Ocean shimmering 598 m (1,962 ft) below. The path then continues on to Malinbeg, 16 km (10 miles) west. During the summer, for a less strenuous but safer and equally rewarding excursion, pay a boat-owner from Teelin to take you out to see Slieve League from the sea.

### Killybegs @

Road map C2. Co Donegal. 1,700. From Donegal. Donegal (074 972 1148). www.irelandnorthwest.ie

Narrow winding streets give Killybegs a timeless feel, which contrasts sharply with the industriousness of this small town. The sense of prosperity stems in part from the manufacture of the Donegal carpets for which the town is famous, and which adorn Dublin Castle (see pp 76–7) and other palaces around the world.

Killybegs is one of Ireland's busiest fishing ports and the quays are well worth seeing when the trawlers arrive to off-load their catch: gulls squawk overhead and the smell of fish fills the air. Trawlermen come from far and wide – so do not be surprised if you hear Eastern European voices as you wander around the town.



Trawler crew in Killybegs relaxing after unloading their catch

#### THE IRISH GAELTACHTS

The term "Gaeltacht" refers to Gaelic-speaking areas of Ireland. Up to the 16th century, virtually the entire population



Gaelic pub sign in Gaeltacht region

spoke the native tongue. British rule, however, undermined Irish culture, and the Famine (see p219) drained the country of many of its Gaelic-speakers. The use of the local language has fallen steadily since. Even so, in the Gaeltachts 75 per cent of the people still speak it, and road signs are exclusively in Irish – unlike in most other parts of Ireland.

The Donegal Gaeltacht stretches almost unbroken along the coast from Fanad Head to Slieve League and boasts the largest number of Irish-speakers in the country. Ireland's other principal Gaeltachts are in Galway and Kerry.



Donegal town, overlooked by the ruins of its 15th-century castle

### Donegal 6

Road map C2. Co Donegal. 🔼 2,300.

Donegal means "Fort of the Foreigners", after the Vikings who built a garrison here. However, it was under the O'Donnells that the town began to take shape. The restored **Donegal Castle** in the town centre incorporates the gabled tower of a fortified house built by the family in the 15th century. The adjoining house and most other features are Jacobean added by Sir Basil Brooke, who moved in after the O'Donnells were ousted by the English in 1607 (see pp38-9).

Brooke was also responsible for laying out the market square, which is known as the Diamond. An obelisk in the centre commemorates four Franciscan monks who wrote the Annals of the Four Masters in the 1630s, tracing the history of the Gaelic people from 40 days before the Great Flood up until the end of the 16th century. Part of it was written at Donegal **Abbey**, south of the market square along the River Eske. Built in 1474, little now remains of the abbey but a

few Gothic windows and cloister arches. About 1.5 km (1 mile) further on is **Donegal Craft Village**, a showcase for the work of local craftspeople.

Donegal town has some pleasant hotels (see p313) and makes a good base for exploring the southern part of the county.

♣ Donegal Castle

Tirchonaill St. **Tel** 074 972 2405.

Mar–Oct: daily; Nov–Feb: Fri, Sat & Sun. 
Illustration in the state of t

☐ Donegal Craft Village
Ballyshannon Rd. *Tel* 074 972 2105.
☐ May-Sep: Mon-Sat; Jun-Aug: daily.
☐ Limited.

### Lough Derg 6

Road map C2. Co Donegal. Junmid-Aug (pilgrims only). to Pettigo from Donegal.

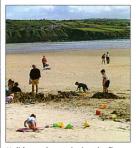
Pilgrims have made their way to Lough Derg ever since St Patrick spent 40 days praying on one of the lake's islands in an attempt to rid Ireland of all evil spirits. The Pilgrimage of St Patrick's Purgatory began in around 1150 and still attracts thousands of Catholics every summer. Their destination is the tiny **Station Island**, close to Lough Derg's southern shore and reached by boat from a jetty

8 km (5 miles) north of the border village of Pettigo. The island is completely covered by a religious complex, which includes a basilica, built in 1921, and hostels for pilgrims.

The pilgrimage season runs from June to mid-August. People spend three days on the island, eating just one meal of dry bread and black tea per day. Although only pilgrims can visit Station Island, it is interesting to go to the jetty to savour the atmosphere and get a good view of the basilica near the shore.

### Rossnowlagh **©**

Road map C2. Co Donegal. 55.
from Bundoran & Donegal.
from Apr-Oct: Main St, Bundoran (071)
984 1350). www.irelandnorthwest.ie



Holiday-makers enjoying the fine sandy beach at Rossnowlagh

At Rossnowlagh, Atlantic waves break on to one of Ireland's finest beaches, drawing crowds of both bathers and surfers to this tiny place. Even so, the village remains far more peaceful than the resort of Bundoran, 14 km (9 miles) south. In addition, the cliffs at Rossnowlagh provide scope for exhilarating coastal walks. Away from the sea, you can visit the Donegal Historical Society Museum, housed in a striking Franciscan friary



Basilica on Station Island viewed from the shores of Lough Derg



Lissadell House dining room with Gore-Booth family portraits

built in the 1950s. The tiny but fascinating collection includes displays of Stone Age flints. Irish musical instruments and other local artifacts.

Rossnowlagh never fails to make the news in July, when it hosts the only parade to take place in the Republic by the Protestant organization, the Orange Order (see p49).

**M** Donegal Historical Society Museum Tel 071 985 1267. 25 Dec.

### Ballyshannon 🚳

Road map C2. Co Donegal. 2,600. 🗐 from Bundoran & Donegal.

In Ballyshannon, well-kept Georgian homes jostle for space along hilly streets on the banks of the River Erne. near where it flows into Donegal Bay. This is a bustling town, full of character and off the main tourist track - though it gets packed during August's festival of traditional music, which is one of the best of its kind in the country.

The festival apart, Ballyshannon is most famous as the birthplace of poet William Allingham (1824-89), who recalled his home town in the lines "Adieu to Ballyshanny and the winding banks of the

Erne". He lies buried in the graveyard of St Anne's

Church, off Main Street. There is a fine view over the river from here: you can see the small island of

#### Inis Saimer

where, according to legend, Greeks founded the first colony in Ireland after the Great Flood. Beyond, you can glimpse a large Irish Army base:

Ballyshannon's Mural of the family dog in position on a steeply rising

bluff overlooking the River Erne has always made the town a strategic military site.

Lissadell's dining room

About 1.5 km (1 mile) northwest of town lie the scant ruins of Assaroe Abbey. founded by Cistercians in 1184. A gravevard with some ancient burial slabs and headstones is all that remains. Nearby, two water wheels installed by the monks have been restored. Water Wheels has a small heritage centre as well as a café.

### M Water Wheels

Assaroe Abbey. Tel 071 985 1580. Mar–Sep: daily. 

☐ May–Oct: daily; Mar-Apr: Sun.

### Lissadell House @

Road map B2. Carney, Co Sligo. Tel 071 916 3150. 🗐 or 🗐 to Sligo. May-Sep: 11am-6pm daily. www.lissadellhouse.com

A Greek Revival mansion built in the 1830s. Lissadell is famous more for its occupants than its architecture. It used to be the home of the Gore-Booths who, unlike some of the Anglo-Irish gentry, have contributed much to the region over the four centuries they have been in County Sligo. During the Famine (see p219), Sir Robert mortgaged the house to help feed his employees. The most famous member

of the Gore-Booth family is Sir Robert's granddaughter. Constance Markievicz (1868-1927), a leading nationalist who took part in the 1916 Rising (see pp44-5). She was the first woman to be elected to the British House of Commons and later became Minister for Labour in the first Dáil. WB Yeats, who first visited the house in 1894. immortalized Constance and her sister. Eva. in one of his poems, describing them as Two girls in silk kimonos. both beautiful, one a gazelle".

Built in grey limestone, the exterior of Lissadell House is rather austere. The interior, on the other hand, has an appealing atmosphere of faded grandeur, with copious memorabilia of the building's former occupants. The finest

rooms are the gallery and the dining room, decorated with extraordinary full-length murals of the Gore-Booth family, their famous butler Thomas Kilgallon, the gamekeeper, head woodman and a dog. Painted directly on to the wall, they were the work of Constance's husband. adventurer and self-styled 'Count" Casimir Markievicz.

Both the house and the estate are slowly being restored. You can already explore along paths skirting the seashore, and there is also a wildlife reserve which is a popular winter refuge for barnacle geese.

## A Tour of Yeats Country @



Yeats tour sign

Even for people unfamiliar with the poetry of WB Yeats, Sligo's engaging landscapes are reason enough to make a pilgrimage. This tour follows a varied route, taking you past

sandy bays and dramatic limestone ridges, through forest and alongside rivers and lakes. Lough Gill lies at the heart of Yeats country, enclosed by wooded hills crisscrossed by walking trails. In summer, boats ply the length of the lough, or you can head to one of the northwest's best beaches, at Rosses Point.



Ben Bulben (5)

Harbou,

The eerie silhouette of Ben Bulben rises abruptly out of the plain. You can climb to the top, but go with great care.



#### Lissadell House 4

Yeats was a close friend of the Gore-Booth sisters who lived at Lissadell. You can see the room where the poet slept as a guest (see p231).

#### Drumcliff ③

Although he died in France, in 1948 Yeats's body was laid to rest in Drumcliff churchyard. The ruins of an old monastic site include a fine High Cross.

#### TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Length: 88 km (55 miles). Stopping-off points: Outside Sligo, the best choice of eating places is at Rosses Point, although there are good pubs in Drumcliff and Dromahair, and Parke's Castle has a café. Lough Gill provides most choice in terms of picnic spots.

**Boat trips:** Wild Rose Water Bus (071 916 4266 or 087 259 8869). (See also pp387–9.)

#### KEY

Tour route

\_\_ Other roads

Boat trips

Viewpoint



Yeats and his brother used to spend their summers at this pretty resort. It stands at the entrance to Sligo Bay, and a steady flow of boats passes by.



#### Sligo ①

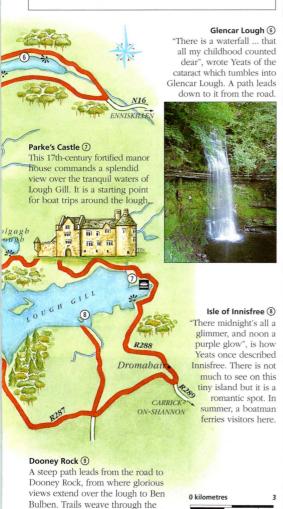
This town is a good place to begin a tour of Yeats country. It has many connections with the poet and his family, whose literary and artistic legacy has helped to inspire Sligo's thriving arts scene (see p.234).

#### WB YEATS AND SLIGO

As a schoolboy in London, Yeats (see p23) longed for his native Sligo, and as an adult he often returned here. He lovingly describes the county in his Reveries over Childhood and Youth, and the lake-studded landscape haunts his poetry. "In a sense", Yeats said, "Sligo has always been my home", and it is here that he wished to be buried. His gravestone in Drumcliff bears an epitaph he penned himself: "Cast a cold eye on life, on death. Horseman pass by."



(1865-1939)



surrounding woods and by the lake.

0 miles



Parke's Castle viewed from across the calm waters of Lough Gill

### Parke's Castle @

Road map C2. 6 km (4 miles) N of Dromahair, Co Leitrim. Tel 071 916 4149. 🖪 or 🗐 to Sligo. mid-Mar-Oct: 10am-6pm daily. 🗸 🛦 ground floor only. 🌠 📮

www.irelandnorthwest.ie

This fortified manor house dominates the eastern end of Lough Gill. It was built in 1609 by Captain Robert Parke, an English settler who later became MP for Leitrim. It has been beautifully restored by the Office of Public Works using 17th-century building methods and native Irish oak.

Parke's Castle was erected on the site of a 16th-century tower house belonging to the O'Rourkes, a powerful local clan, and stones from this earlier structure were used in the new building. The original foundations and part of the moat were incorporated, but otherwise Parke's Castle is the epitome of a Plantation manor house (see p39). It is protected by a large enclosure or bawn, whose sturdy wall includes a gatehouse and two turrets as well as the house itself.

Among the most distinctive architectural features of Parke's Castle are the diamond-shaped chimneys, mullioned windows and the parapets. There is also a curious stone hut, known as the "sweathouse", which was an early Irish sauna. Inside, an exhibition and audiovisual display cover Parke's Castle and various historic and prehistoric sites in the area. There is also a working forge.

Boat trips around sights on Lough Gill that are associated with the poet, WB Yeats, leave from outside the castle walls.



Hargadon's bar (see p350), one of Sligo town's most famous watering holes

### Sligo 2

The port of Sligo sits at the mouth of the River Garavogue, sandwiched between the Atlantic and Lough Gill. The largest town in the northwest, it rose to prominence under the Normans, being well placed as a gateway between the provinces of Ulster and Connaught, The appearance of Sligo today is mainly the result of growth during the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Sligo is perfectly situated for touring the ravishing countryside nearby, and it is also a good centre for traditional music.

While at first sight it can seem a bit sombre, the town is thriving as the arts capital of northwest Ireland.

Sligo's link with the Yeats family is the main source of the town's appeal. WB Yeats (see pp232 – 3), Ireland's best-known poet, was born into a prominent local family. The Pollexfen warehouse, at the western end of Wine Street, has a rooftop turret from which the poet's grandfather would observe his merchant fleet moored in the docks.

The town's sole surviving medieval building is **Sligo Abbey**, founded in 1253. Some original features remain, such as the delicate lancet windows in the choir, but this ruined Dominican friary dates mainly from the 15th century. The best features are a beautifully carved altar and the cloisters. A short distance west from

the abbey is O'Connell Street, with the town's main shops and Hargadon's bar – an old Sligo institution complete with a dark, wooden interior, snugs and a grocery counter. Near the junction with Wine Street, overlooking Hyde Bridge, is

the Yeats Memorial Building. This houses the Yeats Society and the **Sligo Art** 

Gallery, which puts on shows by foreign and Irish artists. The Yeats International Summer School is held here too: a renowned annual festival of readings and lectures on the poet's life and work.

Just the other side of Hyde Bridge is a statue of the poet, engraved with lines from his own verse. Sligo County Museum

has a collection of Yeatsian memorabilia and local artifacts but the entire Niland Collection including the

paintings by Jack B Yeats have been moved to the Model Arts & Niland Gallery in The Mall. This outstanding new centre also puts on temporary exhibitions of major Irish and international contemporary art. ♠ Sligo Abbey

Abbey St. *Tel* 071 914 6406. mid-Mar–Oct: daily; Nov–Jan: Fri–Sun. Easter–Oct. www.sligoartgallery.com

Hyde Bridge. **Tel** 071 914 5847. 10am–5:30pm Mon–Sat.

⚠ Sligo County Museum
Stephen St. Tel 071 914 7190.

☐ Tue–Sat daily (Oct–May: pm only).

Model Arts & Niland Gallery The Mall. *Tel* 071 9141405. Tue–Sun. www.modelart.ie

#### Environs

Improbably set in the suburbs of Sligo, Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery once held the country's largest collection of Stone Age tombs. Quarrying destroyed much, but about 40 passage tombs (see pp246–7) and dolmens (see p32) survive among the abandoned gravel pits, with some in private gardens and cottages.

The huge unexcavated cairn atop **Knocknarea** mountain dates back 5,000 years and is said to contain the tomb of the legendary Queen Maeve of Connaught (*see p26*). It is an hour's climb starting 4 km (2.5 miles) west of Carrowmore.

Tobernalt, by Lough Gill 5 km (3 miles) south of Sligo, means "cliff well", after a nearby spring with alleged curative powers. It was a holy site in Celtic times and later became a Christian shrine. Priests came here to celebrate Mass in secret during the 18th century, when Catholic worship was illegal. The Mass rock, next to an altar erected around 1900, remains a place of pilgrimage.

Carrowmore Cemetery
Tel 071 916 1534. Easter-Oct.



Altar by the holy well at Tobernalt, overlooking Lough Gill in Sligo

### Lough Arrow @

Road map C3. Co Sligo. (a) to Ballinafad. (b) May-Oct: Boyle (071) 966 2145).

People go to Lough Arrow to sail and fish for the local trout, and also simply to enjoy the glorious countryside. You can explore the lake by boat, but the views from the shore are the real joy of Lough Arrow. A full circuit of the lake is recommended, but for the most breathtaking views head for the southern end around Ballinafad. This small town lies in a gorgeous spot, enclosed to the north and south by the Bricklieve and Curley Mountains.

The Carrowkeel Passage
Tomb Cemetery occupies a
remote and eerie spot in the
Bricklieve Mountains to the
north of Ballinafad. The best
approach is up the single track
road from Castlebaldwin, 5 km
(3 miles) northeast of the site.

The 14 Neolithic passage graves, which are scattered around a hilltop overlooking Lough Arrow, are elaborate corbelled structures. One is comparable with Newgrange (see pp246-7), except that the burial chamber inside this cairn is lit by the sun on the day of the summer solstice (21 June) as opposed to the winter solstice. On a nearby ridge are the remains of Stone Age huts, presumably those occupied by the farmers who buried their dead in the Carrowkeel passage graves.



Passage tomb in Carrowkeel cemetery above Lough Arrow

### Carrick-on-Shannon **2**

Road map C3. Co Leitrim. A. 2,500.

Apr–Sep: The Marina
(071 962 0170).

www.leitrimtourism.com

The tiny capital of Leitrim, one of the least populated counties in Ireland (although this is changing), stands in a lovely spot on a tight bend of the River Shannon.

The town's location by the river and its proximity to the Grand Canal were crucial to Carrick's development. They are also the main reasons for its thriving tourist industry. There is a colourful, modern marina, which in summer fills up with private launches and boats available for hire.

Already a major boating centre, Carrick has benefited from the reopening of the Shannon-Erne Waterway, one end of which begins 6 km (4 miles) north at Leitrim. The channel was restored in a cross-border joint venture billed as a symbol of peaceful cooperation between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Away from the bustle of the marina, Carrick is an old-fashioned place, with 19th-century churches and convents, refined Georgian houses and shopfronts. The town's most curious building is the quaint **Costello Chapel** on Bridge Street, one of the smallest in the world. It was built in 1877 by local businessman Edward Costello, to house the tombs of himself and his wife.

# The Organic Centre **3**

Road map C3. Rossinver, Co Leitrim. Tel 071 985 4338. www.theorganiccentre.ie

Situated about 3.2 kilometres (2 miles) from Rossinver on the Kinlough Road, The Organic Centre was established in 1995 as a non-profit making company with the aim of providing training, information and demonstrations of organic gardening, cultivation and farming.

The centre is located on a 7.7 ha (19-acre) site at Rossinver in the unspoilt countryside of the sparsely populated North Leitrim. There are display gardens for visitors including a children's garden, a taste garden and a heritage garden, as well as other unusual attractions. A café is open at weekends in the summer.

#### SHANNON-ERNE WATERWAY

This labyrinthine system of rivers and lakes passes through unspoiled border country, linking Leitrim on the Shannon and Upper Lough Erne in Fermanagh. It follows the course of a canal which was completed and then abandoned in the 1860s. The channel was reopened in 1993, enabling the public to enjoy both the Victorian stonework (including 34 bridges) and the state-ofthe-art technology used to operate the 16 locks.



Cruiser negotiating a lock on the Shannon-Erne Waterway



## THE MIDLANDS

CAVAN • MONAGHAN • LOUTH • LONGFORD WESTMEATH • MEATH • OFFALY • LAOIS

be cradle of Irish civilization and the Celts' spiritual home, the Midlands encompass some of Ireland's most sacred and symbolic sites. Much of the region is ignored, but the ragged landscapes of lush pastures, lakes and bogland reveal ancient Celtic crosses, gracious Norman abbeys and Gothic Revival castles.

The fertile Boyne Valley in County Meath was settled during the Stone Age and became the most important centre of habitation in the country. The remains of ancient sites from this early civilization fill the area and include Newgrange,

the finest Neolithic tomb in the country. In Celtic times, the focus shifted south to the Hill of Tara, the seat of the High Kings of Ireland and the Celts' spiritual and political capital. Tara's heyday came in the 3rd century AD, but it retained its importance until the Normans invaded in the 1100s.

Norman castles, such as the immense fortress at Trim in County Meath, attest to the shifting frontiers around the region of English influence known as the Pale (see p132). By the end of the 16th century, this area incorporated nearly all the counties

The Boyne Valley returned to prominence in 1690, when the Battle of the Boyne ended in a landmark Protestant victory over the Catholics (see pp38-9).

Although part of the Republic since 1921, historically Monaghan and Cavan belong to Ulster, and the former retains strong links with the province. The rounded hills called drumlins, found in both counties, are typical of the border region between the Republic and Northern Ireland.

Grassland and bog dotted with lakes are most characteristic of the Midlands. but the Slieve Bloom Mountains and the Cooley Peninsula provide good walking country. In addition to Meath's ancient sites, the historical highlights of the region are monasteries like Fore Abbey and Clonmacnoise, this last ranking among Europe's greatest early Christian centres.



Carlingford village and harbour, with the hills of the Cooley Peninsula rising behind

## Exploring the Midlands

Drogheda is the obvious base from which to explore the Boyne Valley and neighbouring monastic sites, such as Monasterboice. Trim and Mullingar, to the southwest, are less convenient but make pleasanter places in which to stay. The northern counties of Monaghan, Cavan and Longford are quiet backwaters with a patchwork of lakes that attract many anglers. To the south, Offaly and Laois are dominated by dark expanses of bog, though there is a cluster of sights around the attractive Georgian town of Birr. For a break by the sea, head for the picturesque village of Carlingford on the Cooley Peninsula.



West doorway of Nuns' Church at Clonmacnoise

#### **KEY**

Motorway

Major road
 Secondary road

Minor road

Scenic route

Main railway

Minor railway

National border

County border

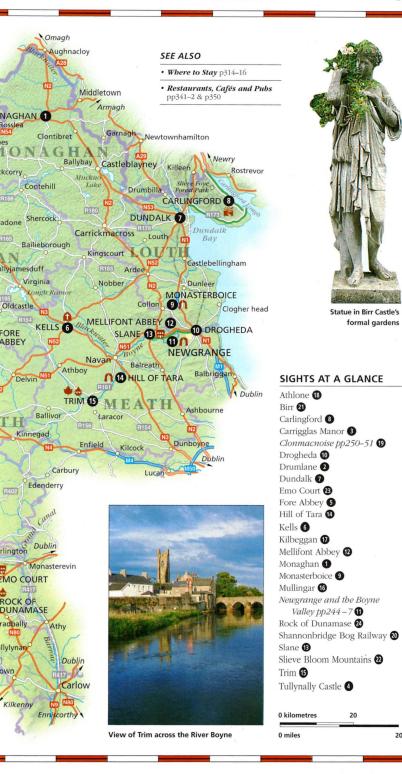
△ Summit

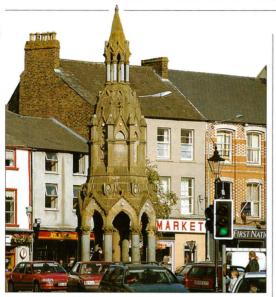
### GETTING AROUND

In the Midlands, there is an extensive network of roads and rail lines fanning out across the country from Dublin. As a result, getting around on public transport is easier than in most other areas. The Dublin–Belfast railway serves Dundalk and Drogheda, while Mullingar and Longford town lie on the Dublin–Sligo route. The railway and N7 road between Dublin and Limerick give good access to Laois and Offaly. For motorists, roads in the Midlands are often flat and straight but also potholed.



Enniskillen





Rossmore Memorial drinking fountain in Monaghan

### Monaghan **1**

Road map D2. Co Monaghan.

6,000. Market House,
Market Square (047 81122).

Market Square (047 81122).

The spruce and thriving town of Monaghan is the urban highlight of the northern Midlands. Planted by James I in 1613 (see p39), it developed into a prosperous industrial centre, thanks mainly to the local manufacture of linen. A crannog (see p33) off Glen Road is the sole trace of the town's Celtic beginnings.

Monaghan centres on three almost contiguous squares. The main attraction in Market Square is the 18th-century Market House, a squat but charming building with the original oak beams still visible. To the east lies Church Square, very much the heart of modern Monaghan and lined with dignified 19th-century buildings, such as the Classicalstyle courthouse. The third square, which is known as the Diamond, was the original marketplace. It contains the Rossmore Memorial, a large Victorian drinking fountain with an ornate stone canopy supported by marble columns.

Do not miss the excellent **County Museum**, just off Market Square, which tells the story of Monaghan's linen and lace-making industries. The pride of its historical collection is the Cross of Clogher, an ornate bronze altar cross which dates from around 1400.

The Gothic Revival Cathedral of St Macartan perches on a hilltop south of the town, from where you can enjoy a fine view over Monaghan.

① County Museum
Hill St. 047 82928. Tue–Sat.

public hols. & limited.

### Drumlane 2

**Road map** C3. 1 km (0.5 miles) S of Milltown, Co Cavan. (a) to Belturbet.

Standing alone by the River Erne, the medieval church and round tower of Drumlane merit a visit as much for their delightful setting as for the ruins themselves. The abbey church, founded in the early 13th century but significantly altered about 200 years later, features fine Romanesque carvings. The nearby round tower has lost its cap but is unusual for the well-finished stonework, with carvings of birds on the north side.

### Carrigglas Manor

Carrigglas Manor has been the seat of the Lefroys, a family of Huguenot descent, ever since its construction in 1837. It has changed little in the intervening years and is a fine example of the Tudor Revival style. The Victorian atmosphere is still very much alive inside, where the rooms are decorated with pseudo-Gothic panelling



story of Monaghan's linen and | Drawing room in Carrigglas Manor with original 19th-century features



Authentic Victorian kitchen in Tullynally Castle

and ornate plasterwork ceilings. The stable block, by contrast, is a grand Neo-Classical building by James Gandon, the architect of Dublin's Custom House (see p88). The manor grounds are primarily woodland but include a wild flower garden.

#### Environs

Just 14 km (9 miles) south of Carrigglas Manor, **Ardagh** is considered the most attractive village in Longford, with pretty stone cottages gathered around a green.

### Tullynally Castle •

Road map C3. Castle Pollard, Co
Westmeath. Tel 044 61159. to
Mullingar. Castle to pre-booked
groups only. be obligatory. tar
Tea rooms and gardens MayAug: daily (pm only). to to to to
www.tullynallycastle.com

This huge structure, adorned with numerous turrets and battlements, is one of Ireland's largest castles. The original 17th-century tower house was given a Georgian gloss, but this was all but submerged under later Gothic Revival changes. The Pakenham family have lived at Tullynally since 1655. Thomas Pakenham, son of the present Earl of Longford, now manages the estate.

The imposing great hall leads to a fine panelled dining room hung with family portraits. Of equal interest are the Victorian kitchen, laundry room and the adjacent drying room.

The 8,000-volume library looks out on to rolling wooded parkland, much of which was

landscaped in the 1760s. The grounds include Victorian terraces, walled kitchen and flower gardens, and two small lakes where black swans have recently been introduced.

### Fore Abbey **9**

Road map C3. Fore, Castle Pollard, Co Westmeath. *Tel* 044 61780. To Castle Pollard. daily.

The ruins of Fore Abbey lie in glorious rolling countryside about 8 km (5 miles) east of Tullynally Castle. St Fechin set up a monastery here in 630, but what you see now are the remains of a large Benedictine priory founded around 1200. Located on the northern border of the Pale (see p132), Fore Abbey was heavily fortified in the 15th century as protection against the native Irish.

The ruined church was part of the original Norman priory, but the cloister and refectory date from the 1400s. On the hill opposite lies St Fechin's Church, a Norman building said to mark the site of the first monastery. The tiny church nearby incorporates a 15th-century anchorite's cell.

### Kells 6

Road map D3. Co Meath. 5,500.

Road (046 924 7840). Dec—Jan.

Road (046 924 7840).

Signposted by its Irish name, Ceanannus Mór, this modest town provides an unlikely backdrop to the monastery for which it is so famous.

Kells Monastery was set up by St Columba in the 6th century, but its heyday came after 806, when monks fled here from Iona. They may have been the scribes who illuminated the superb *Book* of Kells, now kept at Trinity College, Dublin (see p64).

The monastery centres on a rather gloomy 18th-century church beside which stands a decapitated round tower. There are several 9th-century High Crosses; the South Cross is in the best condition.

Just north of the enclosure is **St Columba's House**, a tiny steep-roofed stone oratory, similar to St Kevin's Kitchen at Glendalough (*see p140*).

The Market Cross, a High Cross that once marked the entrance to the monastery, now stands outside the Heritage Centre in the Old Courthouse. It was used as a

Courthouse. It was used as a gallows during the uprising in 1798 (see p41). The battle scene on the base is a subject rarely used in High Cross art.



Ruins of Fore Abbey, a medieval Benedictine priory



Thatched cottage in Carlingford on the mountainous Cooley Peninsula

### Dundalk •

Road map D3. Co Louth. 🚮 32,000.

Jocelyn St (042 933 5484).

Fri. www.eastcoastmidlands.ie

Dundalk once marked the northernmost point of the Pale, the area controlled by the English during the Middle Ages (see p132). Now it is the last major town before the Northern Irish border.

Dundalk is also a gateway to the magnificent countryside of the Cooley Peninsula. The County Museum, which is housed in an 18th-century distillery in the town, gives an imaginative history of the county, including a section on some of Louth's traditional industries such as beer-making.

### Carlingford 6

Road map D3. Co Louth. 950.

Holy Trinity Heritage
Centre Churchyard Rd (042 937
3454). Carlingford Adventure
Centre Tholsel St (042 937 3100).

2 weeks at Christmas.

www.carlinofordadventure.com

This is a picturesque fishing village, located between the mountains of the Cooley Peninsula and Carlingford Lough. The border with Northern Ireland runs through the centre of this drowned river valley, and from the village you can look across to the Mountains of Mourne on the Ulster side (see pp284–5). Carlingford is an interesting

place to explore, with its pretty whitewashed cottages and ancient buildings clustered along medieval alleyways. The ruins of **King John's Castle**, built by the Normans to protect the entrance to the lough, still dominate the village, and there are other impressive fortified buildings, including the Mint. The **Holy Trinity Heritage** 

Centre, which is housed in a medieval church, traces the history of the port from Anglo-Norman times.

Carlingford is the country's oyster capital, and often holds an oyster festival in August, which draws a large crowd. The lough is a popular v

lough is a popular watersports centre too, and in summer you can go on cruises around the lough from the quayside where there is a new marina.

Detail from a tomb in

Monasterboice graveyard

The Carlingford Adventure Centre organizes walking tours, plus sailing, kayaking, canoeing and windsurfing.

#### **Environs**

A scenic route weaves around the **Cooley Peninsula**, skirting the coast and then cutting right through the mountains. The section along the north coast is the most dramatic: just 3 km (1.8 miles) northwest of Carlingford, in the **Slieve Foye Forest Park**, a corkscrew road climbs to give a gorgeous panoramic view over the hills and lough.

The Tain Trail, which you can join at Carlingford, is a 30-km (19-mile) circuit through some of the peninsula's most rugged scenery, with cairns and other prehistoric sites scattered over the moorland. Keen hikers will be able to walk it in a day.

### Monasterboice

Road map D3. Co Louth. 🗐 to

Drogheda. daily.

Founded in the 5th century by an obscure disciple of St Patrick called St Buite, this monastic settlement is one of the most famous religious sites in the country. The ruins of the medieval monastery are enclosed within a graveyard in a lovely secluded spot north of Drogheda. The site includes a roofless round tower and two churches, but Monasterboice's greatest treasures are its 10th-century High Crosses.

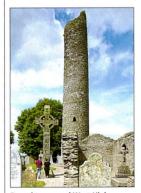
Muiredach's High Cross is the finest of its kind in Ireland, and its sculpted biblical scenes are still remarkably fresh. They depict the life of Christ on the west face, while the east face, described in detail opposite, features mainly Old Testament scenes. The cross is named

after an inscription on the base – "A prayer

for Muiredach by whom this cross was made" – which is perhaps a reference to the abbot of Monasterboice.

The 6.5-m (21ft)

West Cross, also known as the Tall Cross, is one of the largest in Ireland. The carving has not lasted as well as on Muiredach's Cross, but you can make out scenes from the Death of Christ. The North Cross, which is the least notable of the three, features a Crucifixion and a carved spiral pattern.



Round tower and West High Cross at Monasterboice

## Ireland's High Crosses

High crosses exist in Celtic parts of both Britain and Ireland. Yet in their profusion and craftsmanship, Irish High Crosses are exceptional. The distinctive

> ringed cross has become a symbol of Irish Christianity and is still imitated today.

The beautiful High Crosses associated with medieval monasteries were carved

Pillar stones inscribed with crosses, like this 6th-century example at Riasc (see

between the 8th and 12th centuries. The early crosses bore only geometric motifs, but in the 9th to 10th centuries a new style emerged when sculpted scenes from the Bible were introduced. Referred to as "sermons in stone", these later versions may have been used to educate the masses. In essence, though, the High Cross was a status symbol for

the monastery or a local patron.

The High Cross at



Angle

Socket

Mad Dillo

moulding

Ahenny (see p199) is typical of 8th-century "ornamental" crosses These were carved with interlacing patterns and spirals similar to those used in Celtic metalwork and jewellery.

The Last Judgment shows Christ in Glory surrounded by a crowd of resurrected souls. The devil stands on his right clutching a pitchfork, ready to chase the damned souls into Hell.

cross at Monasterboice features scenes from the Bible. including the east face seen here. The 5.5-m (18-ft) cross consists of three blocks of sandstone fitted together by means of tenons and sockets.

Adoration of the Magi

David struggling with Goliath



The Fall of Man shows Adam and Eve beneath an apple-laden tree, with Cain slaying Abel alongside. Both scenes are frequently depicted on Irish High Crosses.

The ring served a functional as well as a decorative purpose, providing support for the head and arms of the stone cross.

Moses smites the rock to obtain water for the Israelites.

The Dysert O'Dea Cross (see p189) dates from the 1100s and represents the late phase of High Cross art. It features the figures of Christ and a bishop carved in high relief.



### Drogheda o

Road map D3. Co Louth. 30,000.

Donore Rd (041 983 7070);
Hillmount (041 984 5684). Sat.

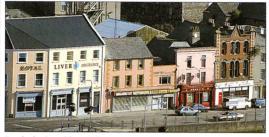
Sat.

Sat.

In the 12th century, this Norman port near the mouth of the River Boyne was one of Ireland's most important towns. However, the place seems never to have recovered from the trauma of a vicious attack by Cromwell in 1649 (see p39), in which 2,000 citizens were killed. Although it is now a bit dilapidated, the town still has its original street plan and has a rich medieval heritage.

Little remains of Drogheda's medieval defences but **St**Lawrence Gate, a fine 13th-century barbican, has survived. Nearby, there are two churches called **St Peter's**. The one belonging to the Church of Ireland, built in 1753, is the more striking and has some splendid grave slabs. The Catholic church is worth visiting to see the embalmed head of Oliver Plunkett, an archbishop martyred in 1681.

South of the river you can climb Millmount, a Norman motte topped by a Martello tower. As well as providing a good view, this is the site of the Millmount Museum,



Drogheda viewed from Millmount across the River Boyne

which contains an interesting display of historical artifacts.

#### 

### Newgrange and the Boyne Valley **o**

Road map D3. Co Meath. to Drogheda. to Slane or Drogheda. The Brú na Bóinne Interpretative Centre (041 988 0300). daily.

Known as Brú na Bóinne, the "Palace of the Boyne", this river valley was the cradle of Irish civilization. The fertile soil supported a sophisticated society in Neolithic times. Much evidence survives, in the form of ring forts, passage graves and sacred enclosures. The most important Neolithic monuments in the valley are three passage graves: supreme among these is **Newgrange** (see pp246–7), but **Dowth** and **Knowth** are significant too. The Boyne Valley also encompasses the Hill of Slane

The Boyne Valley also encompasses the Hill of Slane and the Hill of Tara (see p248), both of which are major sites in Celtic mythology. Indeed, this whole region is rich in



River Boyne near the site of the Battle of the Boyne

#### THE BATTLE OF THE BOYNE

In 1688, the Catholic King of England, James Irish Catholics, and challenged William at II, was deposed from his throne, to be re-Oldbridge by the River Boyne west of placed by his Protestant daughter, Mary, and Drogheda. The Battle of the Boyne took her husband, William of Orange. place on 1 July 1690, with James's poorly trained force of 25,000 French and Irish Determined to win back the crown, James sought the Catholics facing William's hardened army of 36,000 French Huguenots, Dutch, English support of and Scots. The Protestants triumphed and James fled to France, after a battle that signalled the beginning of total Protestant power over Ireland. It ushered in the confiscation of Catholic lands and the suppression of Catholic interests, sealing the country's fate for the next 300 years.

William of Orange leading his troops at the Battle of the Boyne, 1 July 1690

associations with Ireland's prehistory. With monuments predating Egypt's pyramids, the Boyne Valley is marketed as the Irish "Valley of the Kings".

Newgrange and Knowth can only be seen on a tour run by **Brú** na **Bóinne Interpretative Centre** near Newgrange. The centre also has displays on the area's Stone Age heritage and a reconstruction of Newgrange.

#### n Dowth

Off N51, 3 km (2 miles) E of Newgrange. to the public. The passage grave at Dowth was plundered by Victorian souvenir hunters and has not been fully excavated. You cannot approach the tomb, but it can be seen from the road.

#### Knowth

1.5 km (1 mile) NW of Newgrange.

☐ as Newgrange (see pp246–7).

Knowth outdoes Newgrange in several respects, above all in the quantity of its treasures, which form the greatest concentration of megalithic art in Europe. Also, the site was occupied for a much longer period — from Neolithic times right up until about 1400.

Unusually, Knowth has two passage tombs rather than one. The excavations begun in 1962 are now complete and the site



Ruined lavabo at Mellifont Abbey



Slane Castle in grounds landscaped by Capability Brown

### Mellifont Abbey @

Road map D3. Cullen, Co Louth.

Tel 041 982 6459. ☐ to Drogheda.
☐ to Drogheda or Slane. ☐ May—
Oct: daily; Nov–Apr: by appt. 
☐

On the banks of the River Mattock, 10 km (6 miles) west of Drogheda, lies the

first Cistercian monastery to have been built in Ireland. Mellifont was founded in 1142 on the orders of St Malachy, the Archbishop of Armagh. He was greatly influenced by St

Bernard who, based at his monastery at Clairvaux in France, was behind the

success of the Cistercian Order in Europe. The archbishop introduced not only Cistercian rigour to Mellifont, but also the formal style of monastic architecture used on the continent. His new monastery became a model for other Cistercian centres built in Ireland, retaining its supremacy over them until 1539, when the abbey was closed and turned into a fortified house. William of Orange used Mellifont as his headquarters during the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. The abbev is now a ruin, but it is still possible to appreciate the scale and

ground plan of the original complex. Not much survives of the abbey church, but to the south of it, enclosed by what remains of the Romanesque cloister, is the most interesting building at Mellifont: a unique 13th-century lavabo where monks came to wash their hands in a

fountain before meals.
Four of the building's original eight sides survive, each with a Romanesque arch. On the eastern side of

the cloister stands the 14th-century chapter house. It has an impressive

vaulted ceiling and a floor laid with glazed medieval tiles taken from the abbey church.



Glazed medieval tiles

at Mellifont Abbey

**Road map** D3. Co Meath. *Tel* 041 988 0305. 🚯 950.

Slane is an attractive estate village, centred on a quartet of Georgian houses. The Boyne flows through it and skirts Slane Castle Demesne, set in glorious grounds laid out in the 18th century by Capability Brown. The castle was damaged by fire in 1991 but reopened in 2001.

Just to the north rises the Hill of Slane where, in 433, St Patrick is said to have lit a Paschal (Easter) fire as a challenge to the pagan High King of Tara (see p248). The event symbolised the triumph of Christianity over paganism.

### Newgrange



Tri-spiral carving on stone in chamber

The origins of Newgrange, one of the most important passage graves in Europe, are steeped in mystery.

According to Celtic lore, the legendary kings of Tara (see p248) were buried here, but Newgrange predates them. Built in around 3200 BC, the grave was left untouched by all invaders until it was rediscovered in 1699. When it was excavated in the 1960s,

archaeologists discovered that on the winter solstice (21 December), rays of sun enter the tomb and light up the burial chamber – making it the world's oldest solar observatory. All visitors to Newgrange and Knowth (see pp244–5) are admitted through the visitors' centre from where tours of the historic site are taken. Early arrival is advised in summer to avoid long queues.



**Basin Stone** 

The chiselled stones, found in each recess, would have once contained funerary offerings and the bones of the dead...



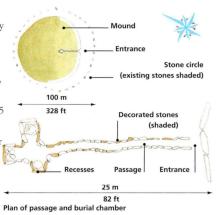
The chamber has three recesses or side chambers: the north recess is the one struck by sun-

#### Chamber Ceiling

The burial chamber's intricate corbelled ceiling, which reaches a height of 6 m (20 ft) above the floor, has survived intact. The overlapping slabs form a conical hollow, topped by a single capstone.

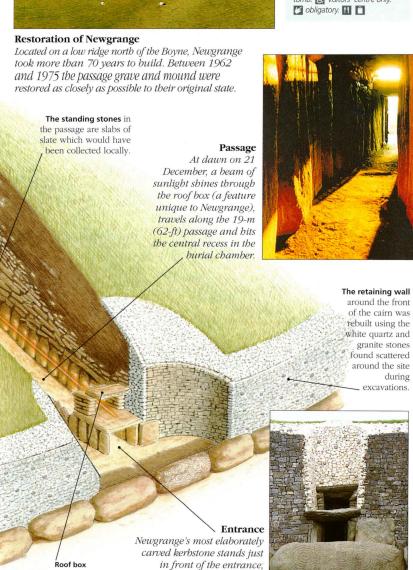
# CONSTRUCTION OF NEWGRANGE

The tomb at Newgrange was designed by people with clearly exceptional artistic and engineering skills, who had use of neither the wheel nor metal tools. About 200,000 tonnes of loose stones were transported to build the mound, or cairn, which protects the passage grave. Larger slabs were used to make the circle around the cairn (12 out of a probable 35 stones have survived), the kerb and the tomb itself. Many of the kerbstones and the slabs lining the passage, the chamber and its recesses are decorated with zigzags, spirals and other geometric motifs. The grave's corbelled ceiling consists of smaller, unadorned slabs and has proved completely waterproof for the last 5,000 years.





#### VISITORS' CHECKLIST



forming part of the kerb of huge slabs around the cairn.



Trim Castle set in water meadows beside the River Boyne

### Hill of Tara 🛭

A site of mythical importance, Tara was the political and spiritual centre of Celtic Ireland and the seat of the High Kings until the 11th century. The spread of Christianity, which eroded the importance of Tara, is marked by a statue of St Patrick. The symbolism of the site was not lost on Daniel O'Connell (see p42), who chose Tara for a rally in 1843, attended by over one million people.

Tours from the Interpretative Centre take in a Stone Age passage grave and Iron Age hill forts, which, to the untutored eye, look like mere hollows and grassy mounds. Clearest is the Royal Enclosure, an oval fort, in the centre of which is Cormac's House containing the "stone of destiny" (*Liath Fáil*), fertility symbol and inauguration stone of the High Kings. Most moving, however, is the poignant atmosphere and views over the Boyne Valley.

### Trim 6

Road map D3. Co Meath. 🔼 6,500. Mill St (046 943 7111). 🚔 Fri. www.eastcoastmidlandsireland.com

Trim is one of the most pleasing Midlands market towns. A Norman stronghold on the River Boyne, it marked a boundary of the Pale (see p132). Trim runs efficient heritage and genealogy centres while the Irish Heritage Trim Folk Theatre provides rousing summer entertainment. (This popular company is at present in search of new premises.)

The dramatic **Trim Castle** was founded in the 12th century by Hugh de Lacy, a Norman knight, and is one of the largest medieval castles in Europe. It makes a spectacular backdrop for films and was used in Mel Gibson's film *Bravebeart* in 1995.

Over the river is **Talbot Castle**, an Augustinian abbey converted to a manor house in the 15th century. Just north of the abbey is **St Patrick's Cathedral**, which incorporates part of a medieval church with a 15th-century tower and sections of the original chancel.

Butterstream Gardens, on the edge of town, are the best in the county. A luxuriant herbaceous bed is the centrepiece, but also pleasing are the exotic woodland, rose and white gardens. The design is enhanced by pergolas, pools and bridges.

♣ Trim Castle
Tel 046 943 8619. ☐ Easter-Oct:
daily; Nov-Easter: weekends.
Mill St (046 943 7111).
Ø obligatory.

### Mullingar 🛭

The county town of Westmeath is a prosperous but unremarkable market town encircled by the Royal Canal



Aerial view of Iron Age forts on the Hill of Tara

(see p101), which with its 46 locks links Dublin with the River Shannon. The cost of building the canal bankrupted its investors and it was never profitable. Although Mullingar's main appeal is as a base to explore the surrounding area, pubs such as Con's and the cheery Canton Casey's can make a pleasant interlude.

#### **Environs**

The Dublin to Mullingar stretch of the Royal Canal has attractive towpaths for walkers, and fishing.

Just off the Kilbeggan road from Mullingar stands Belvedere House, a romantic Palladian villa overlooking Lough Ennel, The house, built in 1740 by Richard Castle, is decorated with Rococo plasterwork and set in beautiful grounds.

Shortly after the house was built, the first Earl of Belvedere accused his wife of having an affair with his brother, and imprisoned her for 31 years in a nearby house. In 1760, the Earl built a Gothic folly - the Jealous Wall - to block the view of his second brother's more opulent mansion across the way. The Iealous Wall remains as does an octagonal gazebo and follies.

Charming terraces descend to the lake. On the other side of the house is a picturesque walled garden, enclosed by an arboretum and parkland.

#### Relvedere House

6.5 km (4 miles) S of Mullingar. Tel 044 49060. May-Aug: 9:30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10:30am-7pm Sat & Sun; Sep-Oct: 10:30am-6pm daily; Nov-Apr. 10:30am-4:30pm daily. 🚳 🗖 📋 & theatre & interpretative centre. www.belvedere-house.ie



House, near Mullingar



Athlone Castle below the towers of the church of St Peter and St Paul

# Kilbeggan **©**

Road map C4. Co Westmeath. A 1,000.

Situated between Mullingar and Tullamore, this pleasant village has a small harbour on the Grand Canal. However the main point of interest is Locke's Distillery. Founded in 1757, it claims to be the oldest licensed pot still distillery in the world. Unable to compete with Scotch whisky manufacturers, the company went bank-

rupt in 1954, but the aroma hung in the warehouses for years and was known as "the angel's share". The distillery was reopened as a museum in 1987. The building is authentic, a

solid structure complete with water wheel and inside steam engine. A tour traces the process of Irish whiskey-making, from the mash tuns to the vast fermentation vats and creation of wash (rough beer) to the distillation and maturation stages. At the tasting stage, workers would sample the whiskey in the can pit room. Visitors can still taste whiskeys in the bar but, unlike the original workers, cannot bathe in the whiskey vats.

#### Locke's Distillery Main Street. Tel 0506 32134. O daily. 15 € 11 6 €

# www.lockesdistillerymuseum.com Athlone @

Road map C3. Co Westmeath. 16,000. 🛢 🗐 🕆 Market Square (090 649 4630). A Fri.

The town owes its historical importance to its position by a natural ford on the River Shannon. Athlone Castle is a much altered 13th-century fort-

> ress, which was badly damaged in the Jacobite Wars (see pp38-9). It lies in the shadow of the 19th-century church of St Peter and St Paul. The neighbouring streets offer several good pubs. Across the river from the castle, boats depart

for Clonmacnoise

Miniature whiskey bottles at Locke's Distillery in Kilbeggan

(see pp250-51) or Lough Ree.

Athlone Castle Visitors' Centre Tel 090 649 2912. May-Sep: daily; Oct-Apr: by appt. 16 & limited.

#### **Environs**

The Lough Ree Trail starts 8 km (5 miles) northeast of Athlone, at Glasson. The route passes picturesque views and unspoilt countryside. The trail is a popular cycling tour.

# Clonmacnoise o



Detail on a grave slab

This medieval monastery, in a remote spot by the River Shannon, was founded by St Ciaran in 545-548. Clonmacnoise lay at a crossroads of medieval routes, linking all parts of Ireland. Known for its scholarship and piety, it thrived from the 7th to the 12th century. Many kings of Tara

The Pope's Shelter was

conducted Mass during

where John Paul II

his visit in 1979.

and of Connaught were buried here. Plundered by the Vikings and Anglo-Normans, it fell to the English in 1552. Today, a group of stone churches (temples), a cathedral. two round towers and three High Crosses remain.



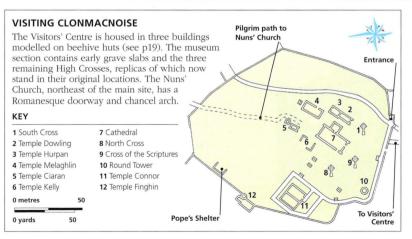
# at Clonmacnoise

This painting (1838), by George Petrie, shows pilgrims walking the traditional route three times around the site. Pilgrims still do this every year on 9 September, St Ciaran's Day.



Cross of the Scriptures This copy of the original 9th-century cross (now in the museum) is decorated with biblical scenes, but the identity of most of the figures is uncertain.







## VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Road map C4. 7 km (4 miles) N of Shannonbridge, Co Offaly. *Tel* 090 967 4195. to Athlone, then minibus (090 647 4839/ 087 240 7706). from Athlone.

👃 🛄 www.heritageireland.ie

daily. Groups pre-book.

25 Dec. Ø in summer.

# Whispering Door

Above the cathedral's 15thcentury north doorway are carvings of saints Francis, Patrick and Dominic. The acoustics of the doorway are such that even a whisper is carried inside the building.





Temples Dowling, Hurpan and Melaghlin

Built as a family crypt, Temple Hurpan was a 17th-century addition to the early Romanesque Temple Dowling. The 13thcentury Temple Melaghlin has two fine round-headed windows.



passing an area of cut bog

# Shannonbridge Bog Railway **2**

Road map C4. 5 km (3 miles) E of Shannonbridge, Co Offaly. *Tel* 090 967 4450. At to Athlone. Apr-Oct: daily; Nov-Mar: groups by appt. 2 mar 3 mar 3 mar 3 mar 4 mar 4 mar 4 mar 4 mar 4 mar 5 mar 4 m

Starting near Shannonbridge, this guided tour by train is run by the Irish Peat Board (Bord na Móna). The 45-minute tour covers 9 km (6 miles) of bogland and gives a fascinating insight into the history and development of the Blackwater raised bogs – an area of great ecological importance, parts of which are protected.

Tour guides describe the transformation from lake to marshy fen and thence to bog (see p252), and explain that in several hundred years the bog will become fields and woodland. They also point out the area's distinctive flora and fauna, from dragonflies to bog cotton, bog asphodel and sphagnum moss. The small lakes and pools that punctuate the bog provide excellent habitats for wetland birds.

Bog oaks – old trees which have been preserved in the bog – are visible in the places where the peat has been harvested. For centuries, peat has been the main source of fuel in rural Ireland, and visitors can watch peat being cut by hand using the traditional tool known as a "slane". Modern peat-harvesting machines in use nearby supply the power station at Shannonbridge. There is a craft shop and also a machinery museum here.

# The Raised Bogs of the Midlands

Peatland or bog, which covers about 15 Although Irish boglands are some of per cent of the Irish landscape, exists in two principal forms. Most extensive is the thin blanket bog found chiefly in the west, while the dome-shaped raised bogs are more characteristic

of the Midlands - notably in an area known as the Bog of Allen. the largest in Europe, the use of peat for fuel and fertilizer

has greatly reduced their extent, threatening not only

the shape of the Irish landscape but also the survival of a unique habitat and the unusual plants

Four-spotted chaser dragonfly

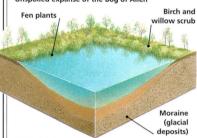
and insects it supports.



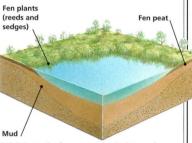
Unspoiled expanse of the Bog of Allen



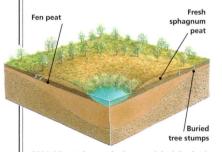
Peat cutters still gather turf (as peat is known locally) by hand in parts of Ireland. It is then set in stacks to dry. Peat makes a good fuel, because it is rich in partially decayed vegetation, laid down over thousands of years.



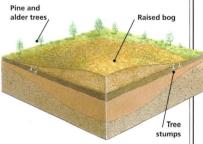
8000 BC: Shallow meltwater lakes that formed after the Ice Age gradually filled with mud. Reeds, sedges and other fen plants began to dominate in the marshy conditions which resulted.



6000 BC: As the fen vegetation died, it sank to the lake bed but did not decompose fully in the waterlogged conditions, forming a layer of peat. This slowly built up and also spread outwards.



3000 BC: As the peat built up and the lake slowly disappeared, plant life in the developing bog had to rely almost exclusively on rainwater, which is acid. Fen plants could not survive in these acidic conditions and gave way to bog mosses, mainly species of sphagnum. As these mosses died, they formed a layer of sphagnum peat on the surface of the bog which, over the centuries, attained a distinctive domed shape.



Present day: Few raised bogs are actively growing today. Those that remain contain a fascinating bistorical record of the landscape. The survival of ancient tree stumps shows how well plants are preserved in peat.



Sphagnum moss

## Birr 🗿

Road map 4C. Co Offaly. (A) 4,100. (D) May–Sep: Rosse Row (0509 20110).

Birr, a gentrified estate town, grew up in the shadow of the castle where the Earls of Rosse have resided for almost four centuries. It is famous for its authentic Georgian layout, with houses displaying original fanlights, door panelling and iron railings. Two particularly elegant streets are Oxmantown Mall, designed by the 2nd Earl of Rosse, and John's Mall. Emmet Square may have sold its Georgian soul to commerce, but Dooley's Hotel is still a fine example of an old coaching inn. Foster's bar, in nearby Connaught Street, is one of many traditional shopfronts to have been restored in Birr.

# Birr Castle Demesne Rosse Row. Tel 0509 20336.

Gardens adaily. W & D Mewww.birrcastle.com

Birr Castle was founded in

1620 by the Parsons, later Earls of Rosse, and is still the family seat. They are most noted for their contribution to astronomy – a telescope, built by the 3rd Earl in 1845, was the largest in the world at the time. The 17-m (56-ft) wooden tube, supported by two walls, can be seen in the grounds, fully restored. The Historic Science Centre traces the family's pioneering work.

The castle is closed to the public, but the glory of Birr lies in its grounds. First landscaped in the 18th century, these are famous for their



An alcove in the front hall of Emo Court with a trompe l'oeil ceiling

9-m (30-ft) box hedges and for the exotic trees and shrubs from foreign expeditions sponsored by the 6th Earl. The magnolias and maples are particularly striking. The gardens overlook the meeting of two rivers.

## Slieve Bloom Mountains @

Road map D4. Co Offaly and Co Laois.

It o Mountmellick. May-Sep:
Rosse Row, Birr (0509 20110).

This low range of mountains rises unexpectedly from the bogs and plains of Offaly and Laois, providing a welcome change in the predominantly flat Midlands. You can walk along the Slieve Bloom Way, a 30-km (19-mile) circular trail through an unspoiled area of open vistas, deep wooded glens and mountain streams. There are other marked paths too. Good starting points are Cadamstown, with an attractive old mill, and the pretty village of Kinnitty - both in the northern foothills.

## Emo Court @

Road map D4. 13 km (8 miles) NE of Portlaoise, Co Laois. *Tel* 0502 26573/086 810 7916. to Monasterevin or Portlaoise. House mid-Jun-mid-Sep: Tue-Sun, Gardens daily. Imited.

Emo Court, commissioned by the Earl of Portarlington in 1790, represents the only foray into domestic architecture by James Gandon, designer of the Custom House in Dublin (see p88). The monumental Neo-Classical mansion has a splendid façade featuring an lonic portico. Inside are a magnificent gilded rotunda and fine stuccowork ceilings.

Emo Court became the property of the Office of Public Works in 1994 but the previous owner is still resident on the grounds. These are adorned with fine statuary and include a lakeside walk.

# Rock of Dunamase @

**Road map** D4. 5 km (3 miles) E of Portlaoise, Co Laois. (a) to Portlaoise.

The Rock of Dunamase, which looms dramatically above the plains east of Portlaoise, has long been a military site. Originally crowned by an Iron Age ring fort, the 13th-century castle which succeeded it is now more prominent – though it was virtually destroyed by Cromwellian forces in 1650. You can reach the battered keep by climbing up banks and ditches through two gateways and a fortified courtvard.



Rock of Dunamase viewed from Stradbally to the east



# NORTHERN IRELAND

LONDONDERRY · ANTRIM · TYRONE FERMANAGH · ARMAGH · DOWN

orthern Ireland has sights from every era of Ireland's history as well as magnificently varied coastal and lakeland scenery. In the past, it has received fewer visitors than the Republic as a result of the "Troubles". Following recent moves towards peace, there seems every chance that it will at last attract the attention it deserves.

The province of Northern Ireland was created after partition of the island in 1921. Its six counties (plus Donegal, Monaghan and Cavan) were part of Ulster, one of Ireland's four traditional kingdoms. It was most probably in Ulster that

Christianity first ousted the old Celtic pagan beliefs. In 432 St Patrick landed at Saul in County Down, later founding a church at Armagh, which is still the spiritual capital of Ireland.

The dominant political force in early Christian times was the Uí Néill clan. Their descendants, the O'Neills, put up fierce resistance to English conquest in the late 16th century. Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, had some notable successes against the armies of Elizabeth I, but was defeated and in 1607 fled to Europe with other Irish lords from Ulster, in what became known as the "Flight of the Earls". Vacant estates were granted to individuals and companies, who planted them with

English and Scottish Protestants (see p39). Many Plantation towns, such as Londonderry, preserve their 17th-century layout around a central square or "diamond". The arrival of new settlers meant that Irish Catholics were increasingly marginalized, thereby sowing the seeds of 400 years of conflict.

In the relative tranquillity of the 18th century, the Anglo-Irish nobility built stately homes, such as Mount Stewart House on the Ards Peninsula and Castle Coole near Enniskillen. Ulster also enjoyed prosperity in the 19th century through its ship-building, linen and rope-making industries.

Though densely populated and industrialized around Belfast, away from the capital the region is primarily agricultural. It also has areas of outstanding natural beauty, notably the rugged Antrim coastline around the Giant's Causeway, the Mountains of Mourne in County Down and the Erne lakeland in the west of the region.



Belfast's City Hall (1906), symbol of the city's civic pride

# **Exploring Northern Ireland**

The starting point for most visitors to the province is Belfast, with its grand Victorian buildings, good pubs and the excellent Ulster Museum. However, Northern Ireland's greatest attractions lie along its coast. These range from the extraordinary volcanic landscape of the Giant's Causeway to Carrickfergus, Ireland's best preserved Norman castle. There are also Victorian resorts, like Portstewart, tiny fishing villages and unspoiled sandy beaches, such as Benone Strand. Ramblers are drawn to the Mountains of Mourne, while anglers and boating enthusiasts can enjoy the lakeland of Lower Lough Erne.



Belleek

Ballybofey Plumbridge Sperimount Hamilton
Castlederg Gortin STONE CIRCLES TONE CIRCLES TONE CIRCLES OOD

FOLK PARK

**III** ULSTER-AMERICAN

Strabane

Bridgend o

LONDONDERRY 1

St Johnstown

Letterkenny

TEMPLE

Limavady

Dungiven

Beetlin

Kead

Pomeroy

DUNGANNON 22

Middletown

Monaghan

Clones

Belturbet

Cavan

Aughnaclo

Castleblayney

Foyle Ballykelly

Claudy

Culmore

Drumahoe

Dunnamanagh

Omagh



Derrylin

**O** Kesh

Derg

Œ



# Scenic route Main railway

— Minor railway

National border

△ Summit

County border

## **GETTING AROUND**

Err

Belfast is the transport hub of Northern Ireland. From here the very limited train network runs northwest to Londonderry and south to Dublin. In most parts of the province you have to rely on buses, but fortunately, even in rural areas, these are fairly frequent and punctual. However, a car is essential if you want to go off the beaten track in search of ancient monuments or tour the coast at leisure. Depending on the security situation, you may still encounter temporary checkpoints set up by the army and police (see p374).



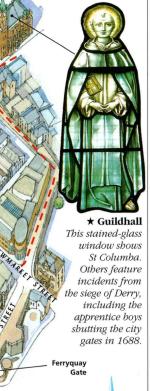
# Londonderry o **★** Tower Museum St Columba founded a monastery The excellent displays here beside the River Foyle on local history in this in 546. He called the place new museum include Doire or "oak grove", later one on the mapping anglicized as Derry. In 1613, of the area during the the city was selected as a reign of Elizabeth I. major Plantation project Carving on (see pp38-9), organized by **Shipquay Gate Shipquay Gate** London livery companies. As a result, it acquired the prefix London, though most people still call it Derry. When British troops shot dead 13 demonstrators in 1972, Derry hit the world's headlines. Today, with an end to the Troubles in sight, the city council has undertaken several admirable heritage projects. The Craft Village was opened in 1992 as part of the city's plans to bring the centre back to life. **Butcher's** The Diamond The war memorial in the Diamond or main square was erected in 1927. It was originally made for the city of Sheffield in England. Court House Playhouse New Gate Bishop's Gate KEY **★ St Columb's Cathedral** The nave's wooden ceiling dates from Parking

1862. The corbels are carved with the

heads of former bishops and deans.

Suggested route

## **VISITORS' CHECKLIST**



0 metres 100 0 yards 100

#### STAR SIGHTS

To Craigavon Bridge

and River Foyle

- ★ Guildhall
- ★ St Columb's Cathedral
- ★ Tower Museum

#### ♠ St Columb's Cathedral

St Columb's Court. **Tel** 028 7126 7313. Mon−Sat. ll on request. と www.stcolumbscathedral.org Built between 1628 and 1633, in "Planters' Gothic" style, St Columb's was the first cathedral to be founded in the British Isles after the Reformation. The interior was extensively restored in the 19th century. A small museum in the Chapter House has relics from the siege of 1689 (see pp38-9), including

pp38-9), including the 17th-century locks and keys of the city. In the vestibule is a hollow mortar cannonball that was fired into the city by James II's army. It carried terms for capitulation, but the reply of the Protestants within the walls was a defiant "No surrender", a phrase used by Loyalists to this day.

#### 

Union Hall Place. *Tel* 028 7137 2411. 10am-4:30pm Mon-Sat.

Housed in O'Doherty Tower (a replica of the original 16th-century building on this site), the museum traces the history of the city from its foundation to the recent Troubles using multimedia displays. Upstairs, an exhibition about the 1688 Spanish Armada includes artifacts from ships wrecked in nearby Kinnagoe Bay.

### ★ Walls of Derry

Access from Magazine Street. Among the best preserved city fortifications in Europe, the city walls rise to a height of 8 m (26 ft) and in places are 9 m (30 ft) wide. Completed in 1618 to defend the new merchant city from Gaelic chieftains in Donegal, the walls have never been breached, not even during the siege of 1689, when 7,000 out of a population of 20,000 perished from

disease or starvation.

Restoration work
means that it should
soon be possible to
walk right around
the walls for the first
time in decades. Just
outside the old fortifications, beyond Butcher's

Lock of city gate in Gate, is the Bogside, St Columb's Cathedral a Catholic area with a famous mural that

announces "You are now entering Free Derry".

## **∰** Guildhall

#### **Environs**

Just off the B194, on the way to Muff, is the Earhart Museum containing a small exhibition on American aviator Amelia Earhart, the first woman to complete a transatlantic solo flight. She had intended to fly to Paris, but in May 1932 landed in a field outside Derry. The nearby park is lovely for picnics.

#### **11** Earhart Museum

Ballyarnet. **Tel** 028 7135 4040. 9am-4pm Mon-Thu, 9am-1pm Fri.



The old walled city viewed across the River Foyle



Terraced houses behind the promenade at Portrush

## Benone Strand 2

Road map D1. Co Londonderry.

■ Benone Tourist Complex, 53
Benone Ave, Seacoast Rd, Magilligan
(028 7775 0555). ☐ daily.

www.caravancampingsites.co.uk

The wide, golden sands of Ireland's longest beach, also known as Magilligan Strand, sweep along the Londonderry coastline for more than 10 km (6 miles). The magnificent beach has been granted EU Blue Flag status for its cleanliness. At the western extremity of the beach is Magilligan Point where a Martello tower, built during the Napoleonic wars, stands guard over the entrance to Lough Foyle. To get to the point, renowned for its rare shellfish and sea birds, you have to drive below the watchtowers and listening devices of an army base. The experience is rather unsettling, but well worth the trouble.

# Mussenden Temple 3

Road map D1. Co Londonderry. Tel 028 7084 8728. Jun-Aug: 11am-7:30pm daily; Mar-May & Sep-Oct: 11am-6pm Sat, Sun & public hols. td. www.ntni.org.uk

The oddest sight along the Londonderry coast is this small, domed rotunda perched precariously on a windswept headland outside the family resort of Castlerock. The temple

was built in 1785 by Frederick Augustus Hervey, the eccentric Earl of Bristol and Protestant Bishop of Derry, as a memorial to his cousin Mrs Frideswide Mussenden. The design was based on the Temple of Vesta at Tivoli outside Rome.

The walls, made of basalt faced with sandstone, open out at the four points of the compass to three windows and an entrance. Originally designed for use as a library (or, as some stories go, an elaborate boudoir for the bishop's mistress), the structure is now maintained by the National Trust and remains in excellent condition.

The bishop allowed the local priest to say Mass for his Roman Catholic tenants in the basement. The bishop's former residence, the nearby Downhill Castle, was gutted by fire and is now little more than an impressive shell

than an impressive shell.

The surrounding area offers some good glen and cliff walks and there are some magnificent views of the Londonderry and Antrim coastline. Below the temple is Downhill Strand, where the bishop sponsored horseback races between his clergy.

## Portstewart 4

Road map D1. Co Londonderry.

6,000. to Coleraine or
Portrush. I Jul & Aug: Town
Hall, The Crescent (028 7034 4723).

A popular holiday destination for Victorian middle-class families, Portstewart is still a family favourite today. Its long, crescent-shaped seafront promenade is sheltered by rocky headlands. Just west of town, and accessible by road or by a cliffside walk, stretches Portstewart Strand, a magnificent, long, sandy beach, protected by the National Trust.

On Ramore Head, just to the east, lies **Portrush**, a brasher resort with an abundance of souvenir shops and amusement arcades. The East Strand is backed by sand dunes and runs parallel with the world-class **Royal Portrush Golf Links**.

You can stroll along the beach to White Rocks – limestone cliffs carved by the wind and waves into caves and arches.

To the south is the university town of **Coleraine**. The North West 200 (see p28), the world's fastest motorcycle road race, is run between Portstewart, Coleraine and Portrush. The race is held in May in front of 100,000 people.

# Causeway Coast 6

Road map D1. Co Antrim. M Giant's Causeway (028 2073 1855). Carricka-rede Rope Bridge Tel. 028 2073 1582. 13 Mar-Sep: daily, weather permitting. 💋 for car park. 🗖 👢 www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The renown of the Giant's Causeway (see pp262-3), Ireland's only World Heritage Site, overshadows the other attractions of this stretch of North Antrim coast. When visiting the Causeway, it is well worth investigating the sandy bays, craggy headlands and dramatic ruins that punctuate the rest of this inspirational coastline.

Approaching the Causeway from the west, you pass the eerie ruins of Dunluce Castle perched vulnerably on a steep crag. Dating back to the 13th century, it was the main fortress of the MacDonnells, chiefs of Antrim. Although the roof has gone, it is still well preserved, with its twin towers, gateway and some original cobbling intact.

Dunseverick Castle can be reached by road or a lengthy hike from the Causeway. It is a much earlier fortification than Dunluce and only one massive



The roofless ruins of 13th-century Dunluce Castle

wall remains. Once the capital of the kingdom of Dalriada, it was linked to Tara (see p248) by a great road and was the departure point for 5th-century Irish raids on Scotland.

Just past the attractive, sandy White Park Bay, a tight switchback road leads down to the picturesque harbour of Ballintoy, reminiscent - on a good day - of an Aegean fishing village. Sheep Island, a rocky outcrop just offshore, is a cormorant colony. Boat trips run past it in the summer.

Just east of Ballintov is one of the most unusual and scary tourist attractions in Ireland,

the Carrick-a-rede Rope Bridge. The bridge hangs 25 m (80 ft) above the sea island across the 20-m (65-ft) chasm. There are strong handrails and safety nets, but it's definitely not for those with vertigo. Further east along the coast lies Kinbane Castle, a16th-century ruin with spectacular views.

**♣** Dunluce Castle Tel 028 2073 1938. daily. 🚳 in summer and by appt. www.ehsni.gov.uk



Fishing boats moored in the shelter



Chimney

# Giant's Causeway 6

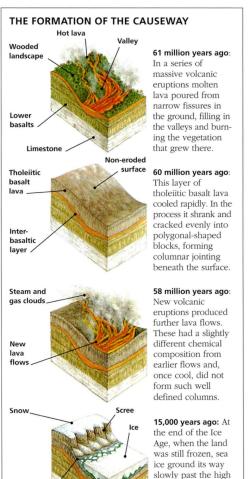
The sheer strangeness of this place and the bizarre regularity of its basalt columns have made the Giant's Causeway the subject of numerous legends. The most popular tells how the giant, Finn MacCool (see pp26-7), laid the causeway to provide a path across the sea to his lady love, who lived on the island of Staffa in Scotland - where similar columns are found. The Giant's Causeway attracts many tourists, who are taken by

the busload from the visitors' centre down to the shore. Nothing, however, can destroy the magic of this place, with its looming grey cliffs and shrieking gulls; paths along the coast allow you to escape the crowds.



Aird's Snout

This nose-shaped promontory juts out from the 120-m (395-ft) basalt cliffs that soar above the Giant's Causeway.





Shape of the Columns

Most columns are bexagonal, but some have four, five, eight or even ten sides. They generally measure about 30 cm (12 in) across.

Sea water

basalt cliffs, eroding

helping to form the

the foreshore and

Giant's Causeway.



## Giant's Causeway and the North Antrim Coast

Millions of years of geological activity can be witnessed in the eroded cliffs flanking the Causeway. The striking band of reddish rock is the inter-basaltic layer, which formed during a long period of temperate climatic conditions. The high iron content explains the rock's rich ochre colour.

Little

Lower

basalts

Causeway

#### VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Road Map D1. Co Antrim. 📳 to Portrush. from Portrush, Bushmills or Coleraine. Visitors' Centre Causeway Head (028 2073 1855). daily. & limited. on request. Giant's Causeway Bushmills Railway heritage steam trains. Tel 028 2073 2844; talking timetable 028 2073 2549. Call

for times. & 🚳 🐧 www.giantscausewayrailway.org



## This section of the Middle Causeway is known as the Honeycomb. Like other unusual rock formations along the coast, it was

Grand

Causeway

Middle Causeway

christened by local guides during Victorian times. **GIANT'S CAUSEWAY TODAY** 

# It has been estimated that 37,000 basalt

columns extend from the cliffs down into the sea. Close to the shore, they have been eroded to form the Grand, Middle and Little Causeways.

Plant debris is trapped between the lava flows.



Wishing Chair

Myth has it that this rocky seat was made for Finn MacCool when he was a boy, and that wishes made here will come true.

Visitors exploring the Giant's Causeway at low tide >





# Old Bushmills Distillery •

Road map D1. Bushmills, Co Antrim.
Tel 028 2073 3218. from Giant's
Causeway & Coleraine. daily. 2
weeks at Christmas. Oct-Apr: Sat &
Sun am. 2 obligatory. fill limited. www.whiskeytours.ie

The small town of Bushmills has an attractive square and a great river for salmon and trout fishing, but its main claim to fame is whiskey. The Old Bushmills plant on the edge of town prides itself on being the world's oldest distillery. Its Grant to Distil dates from 1608, but the spirit was probably made here at least 200 years before that.

In 1974 Bushmills joined the Irish Distillers Group based at the Jameson plant (see p179) in Midleton, but its products have retained their own character. Most are a blend of different whiskeys:

Old Bushmills, in contrast, is made from a blend of a single malt and a single grain.

The tour of the distillery ends with a whiskey sampling session in the 1608 Bar in the former malt kilns, which are also home to a small

are also home to a small museum with old distilling equipment on display.



Murlough Bay, on the coast facing Scotland to the east of Ballycastle

## Rathlin Island 3

Road map D1. Co Antrim. A 75.
daily from Ballycastle (028 2076
9299). Ballycastle (028 2076 2024).

Rathlin is shaped rather like a boomerang – 11 km (7 miles) in length and at no point more than 1.6 km (1 mile) wide. The island is

just a 50-minute boat ride from Ballycastle. About 30 families remain on Rathlin Island, making a living from fishing, farming and a little tourism. Facilities are limited to a café, a pub, a guesthouse,

campground. The fierce, salty Atlantic winds ensure that the landscape on Rathlin is virtually treeless.

a hostel and a

High white cliffs encircle much of the island, and at craggy Bull Point on the westerly tip, tens of thousands of seabirds. including kittiwakes, puffins and razorbills, make their home. A local minibus service will take visitors to view the birds. At the opposite end of the island is Bruce's Cave, where, in 1306, Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, supposedly watched a spider climbing a thread. The spider's perseverance inspired the dejected Bruce to return and win back his kingdom.

# Ballycastle 9

Road map D1. Co Antrim. 4,800.

to Campbeltown (Scotland)
Sheskburn House, 7 Mary St
(028 2076 2024). Apple Fair (end Oct).

www.moyle-council.org

A medium-sized resort town, Ballycastle boasts a pretty harbour and a sandy beach. Near the harbour is a memorial to Guglielmo Marconi, whose assistant sent the first wireless message across water from here to Rathlin Island in 1898.

Ballycastle's Oul' Lammas Fair, held in late August, is one of the oldest traditional fairs in Ireland, featuring stalls selling dulce (dried, salted seaweed) and yellowman (honeycomb toffee).

On the outskirts of town, the ruined 15th-century Bonamargy Friary houses the remains of Sorley Boy MacDonnell, former chieftain of this part of Antrim. Sections of the church, gatehouse and cloisters are well preserved.

#### **IRISH WHISKEY**

The word whiskey comes from the Gaelic *uisce beatha*, meaning water of life. Distillation was probably introduced to Ireland by monks from Asia over 1,000 years ago. Small-scale production became part of the Irish way of life, but in the 17th century, the English introduced a licensing system and started to close down stills. In the 19th century, post-famine poverty and the Temperance movement combined

MILLS DISTI

MILLENNIUM

SWOLE MA

Whiskey barrel at

**Bushmills Distillery** 

S IRISH WHISKE



Poster showing the Old Bushmills
Distillery beside the River Bush

to lower demand. The result was that Scotch whisky (with no "e") stole an export march on the Irish, but in recent years, thanks to lower production costs, improved marketing and the rise in popularity of Irish coffee, sales have been increasing.

#### Environs

Off the A2, 5 km (3 miles) east of town, a narrow scenic road starts to wind its way along the coast to Cushendall. First stop is Fair Head, where a poorly marked path meanders across heathery marshland to towering cliffs 200 m (650 ft) above the sea. From here there are stunning views of Rathlin and the islands off the Scottish coast.

To the lee side of the headland lies **Murlough Bay**, the prettiest inlet along the coast. This can be reached by road. Further to the southeast stands **Torr Head**, a peninsula that reaches to within 21 km (13 miles) of the Mull of Kintyre making it the closest point in Ireland to Scotland.

## Cushendall @

Road map D1. Co Antrim. 2,400.

1 24 Mill St (028 2177 1180).

all year; Oct–June: mornings only.

www.moyle-council.org

Three of the nine Glens of Antrim converge towards Cushendall, earning it the unofficial title of "Capital of the Glens". This attractive village has brightly painted houses and an edifice known



Carnlough harbour, a popular stop south of Cushendall

as Curfew Tower, built in the early 19th century as a lockup for thieves and idlers.

#### **Environs**

About 1.5 km (1 mile) north of the village stands Layde Old Church. It can be reached by a pretty walk along the cliffs. Founded by the Franciscans, it was a parish church from 1306 to 1790 and contains many monuments to the local chieffains, the MacDonnells.

Just over 3 km (2 miles) west of Cushendall, on the slopes of Tievebulliagh mountain, lies **Ossian's Grave**, named after the legendary warrior-poet and son of the giant Finn MacCool (see pp26–7). It is in fact a

Neolithic court tomb: the area was a major centre of Stone Age toolmaking and axeheads made of Tievebulliagh's hard porcellanite rock have been found at a wide range of sites all over the British Isles.

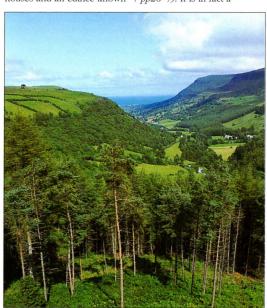
Other attractive villages further south along the coast road include **Carnlough**, which has a fine sandy beach and a delightful harbour, and **Ballygally**, whose supposedly haunted 1625 castle is now a hotel (see p.317).

## Glenariff Forest Park **0**

Road map D1. Co Antrim. *Tel 028* 9052 4480. daily. for car park. Itd. www.forestserviceni.gov.uk

Nine rivers have carved deep valleys through the Antrim Mountains to the sea. Celebrated in song and verse, the Glens of Antrim used to be the wildest and most remote part of Ulster. This region was not "planted" with English and Scots settlers in the 17th century and was the last place in Northern Ireland where Gaelic was spoken.

Today the Antrim coast road brings all the glens within easy reach of the tourist. Glenariff Forest Park contains some of the most spectacular scenery. The main scenic path runs through thick woodland and wildflower meadows and round the sheer sides of a gorge, past three waterfalls. There are also optional trails to distant mountain viewpoints. William Makepeace Thackeray, the 19th-century English novelist, called the landscape "Switzerland in miniature".



**Glenariff Forest Park** 



Stone circle and stone rows at Beaghmore

## Cookstown @

Road map D2. Co Tyrone. 12,000. 😭 👔 Burnavon, Burn Road (028 8676 6727). A Sat. www.cookstown.gov.uk

Cookstown sticks in the memory for its grand central thoroughfare -2 km (1.25 miles) long and perfectly straight. The road is about 40 m (130 ft) wide and, as you look to the north. it frames the bulky outline of Slieve Gallion, the highest of the Sperrin Mountains. A 17th-century Plantation town (see pp38-9), Cookstown takes its name from its founder Alan Cook.

## **Environs**

The countryside around Cookstown is rich in Neolithic and early Christian monuments. To the east, on a desolate

stretch of Lough Neagh shoreline, the Ardboe Cross stands on the site of a 6th-century monastery. Although eroded, the 10th-century cross is one of the best examples of a High Cross (see p243) in Ulster: its 22 sculpted panels depict Old

Testament scenes on the east side and New Testament ones on the west. The

Wellbrook Beetling Mill. west of Cookstown. is a relic of Ulster's old linen industry. "Beetling" was the process of hammering the cloth to give it a sheen. Set amid trees beside the Ballinderry River, the mill dates from 1768 and is now a popular tourist attraction. The National Trust has restored the whitewashed two-storev building and its water

wheel. Inside, working displays demonstrate just how loud "beetling" could be. From the mill, there are pleasant walks along the river banks.

### ♠ Ardboe Cross

Off B73, 16 km (10 miles) E of Cookstown

Wellbrook Beetling Mill Off A505, 6.5 km (4 miles) W of Cookstown. Tel 028 8674 8210 Mar-Oct: 1-6pm (closed on some days). Www.nationaltrust.org.uk

## Beaghmore Stone Circles @

Road map D2. Co Tyrone. Off A505. 14 km (9 miles) NW of Cookstown.

On a stretch of open moorland in the foothills of the Sperrin Mountains lies a vast collection of stone monuments, dating from between 2000 and 1200 BC. There are seven stone circles. several stone rows and a number of less prominent features, possibly collapsed field walls of an earlier period. Their exact purpose remains unknown, though in some cases their alignment correlates with movements of the sun, moon and stars. Three of the rows, for example, are clearly aligned with the point where the sun rises at the summer solstice.

The individual circle stones are small - none is more than 1.20 m (4 ft) in height - but their sheer numbers make them a truly impressive sight. As well as the circles and rows, there are a dozen round cairns (burial mounds). Up until 1945, the whole complex, one of Ulster's major archaeological finds, had lain buried beneath a thick layer of peat.

## **ULSTER'S HISTORIC LINEN INDUSTRY**

The rise in Ulster's importance as a linen producer was spurred on by the arrival from | expensive production process: after cutting,

Ardboe

Cross

France of refugee Huguenot weavers at the end of the 17th century. Linen remained a flourishing industry for a further two centuries, but today it is produced only in small quantities for the luxury goods market. Hundreds of abandoned mills dot the former "Linen Triangle" bounded by Belfast, Armagh and Dungannon. One of the reasons why the

material diminished in popularity was the the flax had to be retted, or soaked,

in large artificial ponds so that scutching - the separation of the fibres - could begin. After combing, the linen was spun and woven before being bleached in the sun, typically in fields along river banks.

The final stage was "beetling", the process whereby the cloth was hammered to give it a sheen.



18th-century print, showing flax being prepared for spinning



Copy of Iron Age Celtic stone head at the Ulster History Park

## Ulster History Park **0**

Road map C2. Co Tyrone. *Tel* 028 8164 8188. ♠ from Omagh. ♠ Apr-Sep: daily; Oct & Mar: Mon-Fri. ♠ 23-29 Dec, Jan-Feb. ❷ ☑ ♣ ■ ↑

Nestling at the edge of the Sperrin Mountains, the Ulster History Park is filled with fullscale models of structures built by successive waves of settlers in Ireland. They range from a Mesolithic hunter/gatherer's hut covered with animal pelts, dating from 7000 BC, to a 17th-century Plantation village (see pp38-9). There are also megalithic burial tombs, a crannog (see p.3.3) from the early Christian period and a Norman motte and bailey (a wooden fortress built on a high mound). An exhibition centre helps put the exhibits in perspective.

# Ulster-American Folk Park 6

**Road map** C2. Co Tyrone. *Tel* 028 8224 3292. from Omagh.

Apr–Sep: daily; Oct–Mar: Mon–Fri.

24–28 Dec, 1–3 Jan. 🚱 🚻 🗈

& www.folkpark.com

One of the best open-air museums of its kind, the Folk Park grew up around the restored boyhood home of Judge Thomas Mellon (founder of the Pittsburgh banking dynasty). The Park's permanent exhibition, called "Emigrants", examines why two million people left Ulster for America during the 18th and 19th centuries. It also shows what became of them, with stories of both fortune and failure, including the grim lives of indentured servants and the 15,000 Irish vagrants and convicts sent to North America in the mid-18th century.

The park has more than 30 historic buildings, some of them original, some replicas. There are settler homesteads (including that of John Joseph Hughes, the first Catholic Archbishop of New York), churches, a schoolhouse and a forge, some with craft displays, all with costumed interpretative guides. There's also an Ulster streetscape, a reconstructed emigrant ship and a Pennsylvania farmstead,

complete with log barn, corn crib and smokehouse. The six-roomed farmhouse is based on one built by Thomas Mellon and his father in the early years of their new life in America.

A fully stocked library and database allow visitors to trace their family roots. Popular American festivals such as Independence Day and Hallowe'en are celebrated at the park and there is an Appalachian-Bluegrass music festival in early September.

## Belleek Pottery 6

Road map C2. Belleek, Co Fermanagh.

Tel 028 6865 9300. Apr-Oct:
daily; Nov-Mar: Mon-Fri. 17 Mar
& 10 days at Christmas.

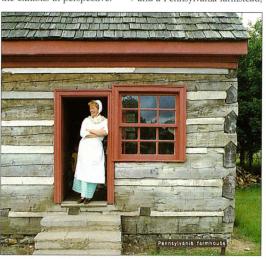
🌠 👃 📋 www.belleek.ie



Worker at the Belleek factory making a Parian ware figurine

The little border village of Belleek would attract few visitors other than anglers were it not for the worldfamous Belleek Pottery, founded in 1857. The company's pearly coloured china is known as Parian ware. Developed in the 19th century, it was supposed to resemble the famous Parian marble of Ancient Greece.

Belleek is now best known for its ornamental pieces of fragile lattice work decorated with pastel-coloured flowers. These are especially popular in the USA. Several elaborate showpieces stand on display in the visitors' centre and small museum. There's also a 20-minute video presentation on the company's history, a gift shop and ample parking space for tour buses.



Pennsylvania log farmhouse at the Ulster-American Folk Park

# A Tour of Lower Lough Erne **©**

The area around Lower Lough Erne boasts a rich combination of both natural and historic sights. From pre-

Christian times, settlers sought the security offered by the lough's forests and inlets. Monasteries were founded on several of its many islands in the Middle Ages, and a ring of castles recalls the Plantation era (see p39). The lake



Belleek 7

Northern Ireland's

most westerly village,

Belleek is famous for

its pottery (see p269).

museum, ExplorErne, which covers most aspects of the region.

There is also a

is a haven for water birds such as ducks, grebes and kingfishers, and the trout-rich waters attract many anglers. Lough Erne is a delight to explore by land or by boat. In summer, ferries serve several islands, and cruisers are available for hire.



Castle Caldwell Forest Park 6 The park's wooded peninsulas are a sanctuary for birds, and you can watch waterfowl from hides on the shore. You may see great crested grebes, the common scoter duck and perhaps even otters.



View across Lower Lough Erne

Boa Island (5)

Two curious double-faced figures stand in Caldragh cemetery, a Christian graveyard on Boa Island. While little is known about the stone idols, they are certainly pre-Christian.





## Lough Navar Forest Drive ®

An 11-km (7-mile) drive through pine forest leads to a viewpoint atop the Cliffs of Magho, with a magnificent panorama over Lough Erne and beyond. Trails weave through the woods.

#### **TIPS FOR WALKERS**

Length: 110 km (68 miles). Stopping-off points: Outside Enniskillen, the best places to eat are the pubs in Kesh and Belleek; in summer, a café opens in Castle Archdale Country Park. There are good picnic places all along the route of this tour, including at the Cliffs of Magho viewpoint. (See also pp387-9.)



Tour route

Other roads

Boats to islands

Viewpoint



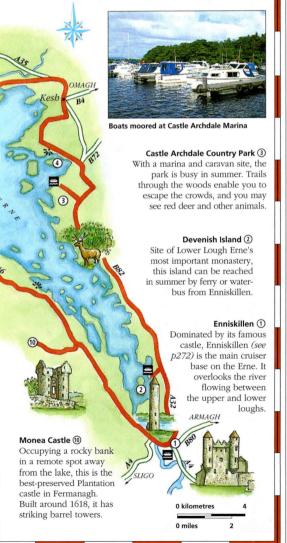
Tully Castle 9

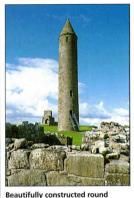
A delightful 17th-century-style herb garden has recently been planted and is maturing well alongside this fortified Plantation house.



#### White Island (4)

The Romanesque church on White Island has bizarre paganlooking figures set into one wall. Of uncertain origin, they probably adorned an earlier monastery on this site. Ferries to the island leave from Castle Archdale Marina in summer.





tower on Devenish Island

## Devenish Island 🛭

Road map C2. Co Fermanagh.

Devenish Ferry (028 6862 1588)
from Trory Point, 5 km (3 miles) N of
Enniskillen: Easter–Sep: daily. for
museum and tower. www.ehsni..gov.uk

St Molaise, who had 1,500 scholars under his tutelage, founded a monastery on this tiny windswept island in the 6th century. Though raided by Vikings in the 9th century and burned in 1157, it remained an important religious centre up to the early 17th century.

Several fine buildings have survived, including **Teampall Mor** near the jetty. Built in 1225, this church displays the transition between Romanesque and Gothic styles. On the highest ground stands **St Mary's Priory**, an Augustinian church that was erected in the 15th century. An intricately carved stone cross close by dates from the same period.

The most spectacular sight on Devenish Island, however, is the 12th-century round tower, which stands some 25 m (82 ft) tall. From the high windows the monks could spot approaching strangers. It is perfectly preserved, and the five floors can be reached by internal ladders. Supporting the roof is an elaborate cornice with a human face carved above each of the four windows: this is a unique feature in an Irish round tower. A small museum covers both the history and architecture of the island, and contains a collection of antiquities discovered at the site.

# Enniskillen @

Road map C2. Co Fermanagh.

14,000. Wellington Road (028 6632 3110). Thu.

The busy tourist centre of Enniskillen occupies an island between Upper and Lower Lough Erne. The town gained fame for the wrong reason in 1987, when 11 people died in an IRA bomb attack, but it deserves a visit for its setting and sights.

At the west end of town stands Enniskillen Castle, dating from the 15th century. It houses Fermanagh County Museum and the Inniskilling Regimental Museum. Its most stunning feature, however, is the Watergate, a fairy-tale twinturreted tower, best admired from the far bank of the river. Further west, Portora Royal School, founded in 1618, counts among its old boys the playwrights Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (see pp22–3).

The **Cole Monument** stands on a little hill in a pretty Victorian park on the east side of town. It is a tall Doric column with a spiral staircase



Enniskillen Castle seen from across the River Erne

that can be climbed for views of the lake country.

## **♣** Enniskillen Castle

#### **Environs**

Just outside town, set in a park with mature oak woodland overlooking a lake, is **Castle Coole**, one of the

finest Neo-Classical homes in Ireland. It has a long Portland stone façade, with a central portico and small pavilions at each end. The stone was shipped from Dorset to Ballyshannon in Co Donegal. The first Earl of Belmore, who commissioned the house in the 1790s, was almost bankrupted by the cost of it. The original design was by Irish architect Richard Johnston, but the Earl then commissioned a second set of drawings by the fashionable English architect James Wyatt. The extravagant Earl died, deep in debt, in 1802 and it was left to his son to complete the decorating and furnishing during the 1820s.

The glory of Castle Coole is that almost all the house's original furniture is still in place. Family portraits from the 18th century line the walls of the dining room. In the lavish State Bedroom there is a bed made specially for King George IV on the occasion of his visit to Ireland in 1821, though in the end he never came here to sleep in it. One of the finest rooms is the oval saloon (or ballroom) at the back of the house. The heavy curtains and richly gilded Regency furniture may not be to everyone's taste, but the spacious oak-floored room produces a magnificent effect of unostentatious luxury.



The saloon at Castle Coole, with original Regency furnishings

## Marble Arch Caves **2**

Road map C2. Marlbank Scenic Loop, Florence Court, Co Fermanagh. *Tel* 028 6634 8855. Mar-Sep: daily (phone first as bad weather can cause closure). So obligatory. So obligatory. So obligatory. So obligatory. Maryww.enniskillen.com

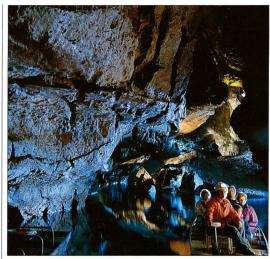
The marble arch caves are cut by three streams which flow down the slopes of Cuilcagh Mountain, unite underground and emerge as the Cladagh River. Tours lasting 75 minutes consist of a boat ride into the depths of the cave complex and a guided walk that leads past stalagmites, calcite cascades and other curious limestone formations. The 9-m (30-ft) "Marble Arch" itself stands outside the cave system in the glen where the river gushes out from below ground.

The caves are very popular, so it's best to book ahead. It is also advisable to ring to check the local weather conditions before setting out; the caves may be closed because of rain. Whatever the weather, bring a sweater and sensible walking shoes.

# Florence Court @

Road map C2. Co Fermanagh. *Tel* 028 6634 8249. from Enniskillen (Jul & Aug). House J Jun-Aug: daily (pm only); 15 Mar-May & Sep: Sat & Sun (pm only). Grounds daily. For car park. www.eniskillen.com

This three-storey Palladian mansion was built for the Cole family in the mid-18th century. The arcades and pavilions, which are of a later date than the main house, were probably added around 1770 by William Cole, first Earl of Enniskillen. The house



**Boat trip through Marble Arch Caves** 

features flamboyant Rococo plasterwork said to be by the Dublin stuccodore Robert West. Sadly, however, not much of what you see today is original as most of the central block was seriously damaged by fire in 1955. Much of the furniture was lost, but the plasterwork was painstakingly recreated from photographs. The finest examples are in the dining room, the staircase and the small Venetian room.

Perhaps more spectacular are the grounds, which occupy a natural mountain-ringed amphitheatre. The area is fairly wild and there are many enjoyable walks around the house. One woodland trail leads to the famous Florence Court yew tree, whose descendants are to be found all over Ireland. Closer to the house is a walled garden where pink and white roses make an attractive sight in summer.

# Dungannon 2

Road map D2. Co Tyrone. M 10,000.
If Killymaddy Tourist Centre,
Ballygawly Rd, 8 km (5 miles) W of
town (028 8776 7259). Thu.

Dungannon's hilly location

made an ideal site for the seat of government of the O'Neill dynasty from the 14th century until Plantation (see pp38–9), when their castle was razed. The town's Royal School claims to be the oldest school in Northern Ireland. Opened in 1614, it moved to its present site in 1789.

Once a major linen centre, this busy market town's best-known factory is now **Tyrone Crystal**, the largest concern of its kind in Northern Ireland. Tours of its modern complex cover all stages of production, including glass-blowing.





Florence Court, the former seat of the Earls of Enniskillen



of Armagh dominated by St Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral

# Armagh 🛭

Road map D2. Co Armagh. 17,000. 📮 🚹 40 English St (028 3752 1800). A Tue & Fri. www.discovernorthernireland.com

One of Ireland's oldest cities, Armagh dates back to the age of St Patrick (see p281) and the advent of Christianity. The narrow streets in the city centre follow the ditches that once ringed the church, founded by the saint in 455. Two cathedrals, both called St Patrick's, sit on opposing hills. The huge Roman Catholic one is a twin-spired Neo-Gothic building with seemingly every inch of wall covered in mosaic. The older Protestant Cathedral dates back to med-Skull of Barbary ape ieval times. It from Navan Fort

boasts the bones of Brian Ború, the King of Ireland who defeated the Vikings in 1014 (see pp34-5), and an 11th-century High Cross.

Armagh's gorgeous oval, treelined Mall, where cricket is played in summer, is surrounded by dignified Georgian buildings. One of these houses the small Armagh County Museum, which has a good exhibition on local history. Off the Mall, St Patrick's Trian is a heritage centre telling the story of the city. It also has a "Land of Lilliput" fantasy centre for children, based on Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift (see p82). Ireland's only planetarium is on College Hill in the Observatory Grounds from where there are splendid views over the city.

## m Armagh County Museum The Mall East. Tel 028 3752 3070.

Mon-Sat. some public hols. by arrangement. www.armaghcountymuseum.org.uk

#### f St Patrick's Trian 40 English St. Tel 028 3752 1801.

☐ daily. ☐ 25, 26 Dec. 個 計 長 自 ww.nitowns.com

Observatory Grounds College Hill. Tel 028 3752 2928. daily, pm only. Planetarium Tel 028 3752 3689. 6 for shows.

To the west of

#### **Environs**

Armagh stands Navan Fort, a large earthwork on the summit of a hill. In legend, Navan was Emain Macha, ceremonial and spiritual capital of ancient Ulster. associated with tales of the warrior

Cúchulainn (see p26). The site may have been in use as much as 4,000 years ago, but seems to have been most active around 100 BC when a huge timber building, 40 m (130 ft) across, was erected

over a giant cairn. The whole thing was then burned and the remains covered with soil. Archaeological evidence indicates that this was not an act of war, but a solemn ritual performed by the inhabitants of Emain Macha themselves.

Below the fort, the grassroofed **Navan Centre** interprets the site, but is now only open for groups of 25 or more. One unexpected exhibit is the skull of a Barbary ape, found in the remains of a Bronze Age house. The animal must come from Spain or North Africa, evidence that by 500 BC Emain Macha was already a place with far-flung trading links.

### M Navan Centre

On A28 4 km (2.5 miles) W of Armagh. Tel 028 3752 5550. | large groups only. Call. 6 & www.navan.com

# Lough Neagh @

Road map D2. Co Armagh, Co Tyrone, Co Londonderry, Co Antrim.

Legend has it that the giant Finn MacCool (see pp26-7) created Lough Neagh by picking up a piece of turf and hurling it into the Irish Sea, thus forming the Isle of Man in the process. At 400 sq km (153 sq miles), the lake is the largest in Britain. Bordered by sedgy marshland, it has few roads along its shore. The best recreational areas lie in the south: Oxford Island, actually a peninsula, has walking trails, bird lookouts and the informative Lough Neagh Discovery Centre. In the southwest corner, a narrowgauge railway runs through the bogs of Peatlands Park. Salmon and trout swim in the



Navan Fort, the site of Emain Macha, legendary capital of Ulster



Hide for birdwatchers at Oxford Island on the southern shore of Lough Neagh

rivers that flow from Lough Neagh. The lake is famous for its eels, with one of the world's largest eel fisheries at **Toome** on the north shore.

#### 

Oxford Island. Exit 10 off M1. **Tel** 028 3832 2205. Apr-Sep: daily; Oct-Mar: Wed-Sun. 25, 26 Dec. 4 www.craigavon.gov.uk

## Peatlands Park

Exit 13 off M1. Tel 028 3885 1102.
Park | daily, 2 5 Dec. Visitors'
centre | Jun-Aug: daily (pm only);
Easter-end May & Sep: Sat, Sun &
public hols (pm only).

## Larne 🛭

Industrial Larne is the arrival point for ferries from Scotland (see pp.384–6). The town is not the finest introduction to Ulster scenery, but it lies on the threshold of the magnificent Antrim coastline (see p.267).

The sheltered waters of Larne Lough have been a landing point since Mesolithic times flint flakes found here provide some of the earliest evidence of human presence on the island - nearly 9,000 years ago. Since then, Norsemen used the lough as a base in the 10th century, Edward Bruce landed his Scottish troops in the area in 1315, and in 1914 the Ulster Volunteer Force landed a huge cache of German arms here during its campaign against Home Rule (see pp44-5).

# Carrickfergus 🛭

Carrickfergus grew up around the massive castle begun in 1180 by John de Courcy to guard the entrance to Belfast Lough. De Courcy was the leader of the Anglo-Norman force which invaded Ulster following Strongbow's conquest of Leinster in the south (see pp.36–7).

Carrickfergus Castle was shaped to fit the crag on which it stands overlooking the harbour. The finest and best-preserved Norman castle in Ireland, it even has its original portcullis (see pp36–7). Many changes have been made since the 12th century, including wide ramparts to accommodate the castle's cannons. Arms and armour are on display in the large keep, while life-size model soldiers are posed along the ramparts. In

continuous use up to 1928, the castle has changed hands several times over the years. Under Edward Bruce, the Scots took it in 1315, holding it for three years. James II's army was in control of the castle from 1688 until General Schomberg took it for William III in 1690. William himself stayed here before the Battle of the Boyne (see p2444) in 1690.

De Courcy also founded the pretty **St Nicholas' Church**. Inside are rare stained-glass work and a "leper window", through which the afflicted received the sacraments.

Other attractions include the **Andrew Jackson Centre**, which celebrates the town's link to the seventh president of the USA, and **Flame**, a museum based around a Victorian coal gasworks.

⚠ Flame 44 Irish Quarter West. *Tel* 028 9336 9575. www.gasworksflame.com



The massive Norman keep of Carrickfergus Castle

# Belfast @



Red Hand of Ulster, Linen Hall Library

Belfast was the only city in Ireland to experience the full force of the Industrial Revolution. Its ship-building, linen, rope-making and tobacco industries caused the population to rise to almost 400,000 by the end of World War I. The

Troubles and the decline of traditional industries have since damaged economic life, but regeneration

projects, such as the Odyssey complex at Queen's Quay, are breathing new life into run-down areas. Belfast remains a handsome city and visitors are agreeably surprised by the friendliness of the "Big Smoke".





Interior of the Grand Opera House

## City Hall

Donegall Square. Tel 028 9027 0456 ext 2346. 7 11am and 2:30pm daily; all other times by appointment. Most of Belfast's main streets (and many major bus routes) radiate out from the hub of Donegall Square. In the centre of the square stands the vast rectangular Portland stone bulk of the 1906 City Hall. It has an elaborate tower at each corner and a central copper dome that rises to a height of 53 m (173 ft). Highlight of the tour of the interior is the sumptuous oak-panelled council chamber.

Statues around the building include a glum-looking Queen Victoria outside the main entrance and, on the east side, Sir Edward Harland. founder of the Harland and Wolff shipyard, which built the Titanic. A memorial to those who died when the Titanic sank in 1912 stands close by.



Grand Opera House

intricate plasterwork, was restored to its full glory in 1980. On occasions, bombings of the adjacent Europa Hotel disrupted business at the theatre, but it survives as a major

♠ Belfast Cathedral

Donegall St. Tel 028 9032 8332. www.belfastcathedral.org The Neo-Romanesque façade of this Protestant cathedral, consecrated in 1904, is not particularly impressive.

venue for plays and concerts.

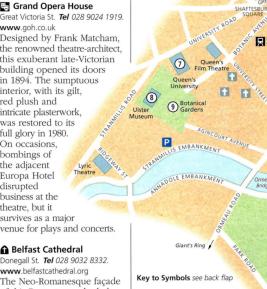
The interior is far more attractive, especially the colourful mosaics

executed by the two Misses Martin in the 1920s. The one covering the baptistry ceiling contains over 150,000 pieces. The wide nave is paved and the aisles with Irish marble. Lord Carson (1854-1935), implacable



with Canadian maple leader of the campaign against Home Rule (see p44), is buried in

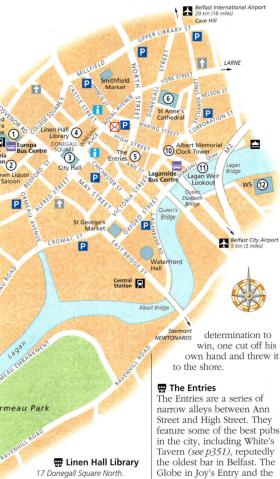
the south aisle.



## SIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Albert Memorial Clock Tower (10) Belfast Cathedral 6 Botanical Gardens (9) City Hall 3 Crown Liquor Saloon (2) The Entries (5) Grand Opera House 1 Lagan Weir Lookout (1) Linen Hall Library 4 Queen's University (7) Ulster Museum (8) W5 (12)

0 metres	500
0 yards	500



Tel 028 9032 1707. Mon-Sat. www.linenhall.com

Founded as the Belfast Society for Promoting Knowledge in 1788, the library has thousands of rare, old books. There is also extensive documentation of political events in Ireland since 1968 and a vast database of genealogical information. Even if you have no special reason for visiting the library, it is still worth going inside, if only for the delightful coffee shop and the vast selection of newspapers and periodicals. Above the library door you will see the Red Hand of Ulster, the emblem of the province. It is the subject of a gory legend about two Celtic heroes racing to see who would touch the land of Ulster first. In his

## VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Road map D2. Co Antrim. 500,000. A Belfast City, 6.5 km (4 miles) E; Belfast International, 29 km (18 miles) NW. 📮 Central Station, East Bridge St (028 9089 9400): Great Victoria St Station (028 9066 6630). 🗐 Europa Bus Centre, Great Victoria St; Laganside Bus Centre, Victoria Sq (028 9066 6630). 🖁 47 Donegall Pl (028 9024 6609). www.goto belfast.com Royal Agricultural Show & Lord Mayor's Show (May).

Entry both serve excellent lunches. In 1791, the United Irishmen, a radical movement inspired by the new ideas of the French Revolution, was founded in a tavern on Crown Entry. Its most famous member was Wolfe Tone (see pp40-41).

### ₩ Crown Liquor Saloon

Great Victoria St. Tel 028 9027 9901. daily. www.nationaltrust.org.uk Even teetotallers should make a detour to the tiled facade of this flamboyant Victorian drinking palace. The Crown, which dates back to the 1880s, is one of only two pubs owned by the National Trust. The lovingly restored interior features stained glass, marbling, mosaics and a splendid ceiling with scrolled plasterwork. The wooden snugs facing the long bar have their original gas lamps: the perfect place for a pint of Guinness or Bass and some Strangford Lough oysters.

The Entries are a series of narrow alleys between Ann Street and High Street. They feature some of the best pubs in the city, including White's Tavern (see p351), reputedly the oldest bar in Belfast. The Globe in Joy's Entry and the Morning Star on Pottinger's



The ornate Victorian interior of the Crown Liquor Saloon

# **Exploring Belfast**

Away from the city centre, Belfast has many pleasant suburbs unaffected by the civil strife of recent times. The area around Queen's University to the south of the city has two major attractions in the Ulster Museum and the Botanic Gardens. To the north, there are splendid views to be enjoyed from the heights of Cave Hill, while visitors interested in Belfast's industrial heritage will be keen to see both the old docks and the Harland and Wolff working shipyards.

#### **1** Ulster Museum

Botanic Gardens. Tel 028 9038

the Girona, a Spanish Armada

ship that sank off the Giant's Causeway in 1588 (see p.257).

One of the most interesting exhibits is of Belfast industry, featuring some crude turn-ofthe-century textile machinery.

In the top-floor gallery is a collection of paintings mostly by British and Irish artists, including many by Belfast-born Sir John Lavery (1856–1941).

In addition to the Irish collections, there are exhibits ranging from ancient Egyptian mumnies to dinosaurs. The museum also mounts frequent temporary exhibitions on a wide variety of themes.



Interior of the Victorian Palm House at the Botanic Gardens

#### Botanic Gardens

Stranmills Rd. *Tel* 028 9032 4902.

Backing on to the university, the Botanic Gardens provide a quiet refuge from the bustle of campus. The 1839 Palm House is a superb example of curvilinear glass and cast-iron work. The Tropical Ravine, or Fernery, is another fine piece of Victorian garden architecture. Visitors can look down from the balcony to a sunken glen of exotic plants.

### T Queen's University

University Rd. *Tel* 028 9033 5252. A 15-minute stroll south from Donegall Square, through the lively entertainment district known as the Golden Mile, leads to Northern Ireland's most prestigious university. The main building, designed in Tudor-style red and yellow brick by Charles Lanyon in 1849, bears similarities to Magdalene College, Oxford. A towered gateway leads to a colonnaded quadrangle.



Weighing Room, Hurst Park (1924) by Sir John Lavery, Ulster Museum

## THE POLITICAL MURALS OF WEST BELFAST



in the Falls Road

Ever since the onset of the "Troubles" in 1968, popular art has played a conspicuous role in proclaiming the loyalties of Belfast's two most intransigent working-class communities, on the Protestant Shankill Road and the Catholic Falls Road. The gable walls of

dozens of houses in these areas have been decorated with vivid murals expressing local political and paramilitary affiliations. Likewise, kerbstones on certain streets are painted either in the red, white and blue of the United Kingdom or the green, white and gold of Ireland. Even with the successes of the current peace process, many are likely to remain. Some tourists make the journey out to West Belfast just to see the murals. The simplest way to do this is to pre-book a "Black Cab Tour" through the Belfast

Welcome Centre, Call

028 9024

**Protestant Loyalist mural** 

### ₩5

Odyssey, 2 Queen's Quay. *Tel* 028 9046 7700. daily (Sun: pm only) (last adm: 5pm). www.w5online.co.uk W5, short for "whowhatwhere whenwhy", is an awardwinning interactive museum, which presents science as an exciting process of discovery.

There are sections on the elements (including the Fire Tornado, a huge column of twisting fire), perception experiments, and problem solving. Visitors can try working a replica of a Port of Belfast crane, designing and building a boat, forensically examining replica bones, or composing music.



Belfast cityscape showing the giant cranes. Samson and Goliath

# ⊞ Albert Memorial Clock Tower

Queen's Square.
One of Belfast's best-known monuments, today the clock tower leans slightly as a result of subsidence. Beyond it, facing the river, stands the Custom House (1854) by Charles Lanyon, architect of Queen's University.

### 11 Lagan Weir Lookout

Donegall Quay. Tel 028 9031 5444. daily (Sat & Sun: pm only). 💋 👃 www.laganside.com Belfast's once thriving harbour area can best be viewed from the footbridge alongside the Lagan Weir development. Five computer-controlled steel gates maintain a fixed water level, getting rid of the mudbanks produced by varying tide levels and allowing for angling and watersports along the river. The visitors' centre, on the footbridge, explains how it all works and tells some good tales of modern Belfast folklore. At night, the weir is



The unmistakable profile of Cave Hill above the roofs of Belfast

lit by gas-filter blue light that shimmers across the water.

There is a partly obscured view across to the giant yellow cranes – appropriately named Samson and Goliath – of the once-mighty Harland and Wolff shipyards.

Antrim Rd, 6.5 km (4 miles) N of city. **Belfast Castle visitors' centre** *Tel* 

## Cave Hill

028 9077 6925. daily. 25 Dec. 25 Dec. 26 daily. 25 Dec. 26 daily. 26 daily. 27 Dec. 27 Dec. 28 daily. 27 Dec. 27 Dec. 28 daily. 27 Dec. 28 daily. 27 Dec. 28 daily. 27 Dec. 28 daily. 29 daily. 29

On the wooded eastern slopes of the hill stands the baronial pile of Belfast Castle, built in 1870. Previously home to the Earl of Shaftesbury, the castle now belongs to the city and houses a restaurant and a visitors' centre that interprets the area's history. A little further along the road past the castle is Belfast Zoo.

## ↑ Giant's Ring

Off B23, 5 km (3 miles) S of city centre. Little is known about this awe-inspiring prehistoric enclosure almost 200 m (660 ft) in diameter. It is surrounded by a grassy bank averaging almost 6 m (20 ft) in width and 4.5 m (15 ft) in height. Bones from a Stone Age burial were found under the dolmen in the centre. During the 18th century the ring was a popular venue for horse races.

#### **∰** Stormont

Newtownards Rd, 8 km (5 miles) SE of city centre. to the public. by arrangement only. Built between 1928 and 1932, at a cost of £1,250,000, Stormont was designed to house the Northern Ireland Parliament. The huge Anglo-Palladian mass of Portland stone and Mourne granite stands at the end of a majestic avenue, 1.6 km (1 mile) long, bordered by parkland. A statue of Lord Carson (see p44) stands near the front entrance.

Since the parliament was disbanded in 1972, the building has been used as government offices. Its future depends very much on the outcome of the ongoing peace process. The debating chamber was badly damaged in a fire in 1994.



Stormont in its parkland setting outside Belfast

# Ulster Folk and Transport Museum @

Road map E2. Cultra, near Holywood, Co Down. Tel 028 9042 8428.

daily: 24-25 Dec. (3) (free for the disabled).

Dozens of old buildings, including flax-, corn- and sawmills, have been plucked from the Ulster countryside and re-erected in this folk park. Demonstrations of traditional crafts, industries and farming methods are given.

The A2 road splits the folk museum from the transport section. This is dominated by a hangar that houses the Irish Railway Collection. The smaller Transport Gallery exhibits machinery made in Ulster, including a saloon carriage from the tram service that ran from Portrush to Giant's Causeway (see pp262-3). Of particular note is a test model of the spectacularly unsuccessful De Lorean car, made in the early 1980s with a huge government subsidy. There's also a popular exhibit on another illfated construction - the Titanic. It's best to allow half a day to take in most of the attractions.

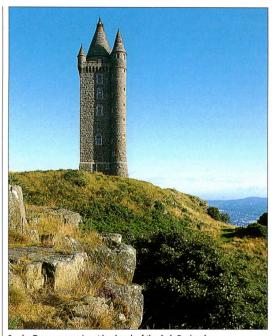


1883 tram carriage at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum

## Ards Peninsula @

Road map E2. Co Down. to Bangor. Newtownards (028 9182 6846). Heritage Centre Tel 028 9127 1200. www.ards-council.gov.uk

The peninsula – and some of Northern Ireland's finest scenery – begins east of Belfast at Bangor. This resort town has a modern marina and some well-known yacht clubs. A little way south is **Donaghadee**, from where boats sail to the three **Copeland Islands**,



Scrabo Tower, a prominent landmark of the Ards Peninsula

inhabited only by seabirds since the departure of the last human residents in the 1940s. The Ballycopeland Windmill (1784) is Northern Ireland's only working windmill and stands on the top of a small hill a little further south, near the town of Millisle.

Just across the peninsula is Newtownards. On a hill above the town is the pleasant and shady

Scrabo Country Park. In the park stands the Scrabo Tower, built in

1857 as a memorial to the third Marguess of Londonderry.

Past the grounds of **Mount**Stewart House (see pp282–3) is the hamlet of Greyabbey, with its antique shops and Cistercian abbey ruins. Founded in 1193, **Grey Abbey** was used as a parish church until the 17th century. It is idyllically set in lush meadows by a stream and some of its features, particularly the finely carved west doorway, are well preserved.

On the tip of the peninsula, **Portaferry** overlooks the Strangford Narrows across from the Lecale Peninsula (*see p284*). Portaferry's large aquarium, **Exploris**, displays

the diversity of life in the Irish Sea and Strangford Lough.

■ Ballycopeland Windmill
On B172 1.6 km (1 mile) W of Millisle.
Tel 028 9054 3037. Jul-Aug:
Tue—Sun; winter on request.

Scrabo Country Park
Near Newtownards. *Tel* 028 9181
1491. Adaily. Tower Easter—
Easter—
Easter—

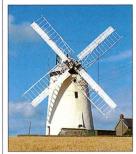
Sep: Sat-Thu or by appt.

Grey Abbey
Greyabbey Tel summer: 028 4278
8585; winter: 028 9054 3037.

8585; winter: 028 9054 3037.

Apr–Sep: Tue–Sun; Oct–Mar: Sat and Sun only or on request.

Exploris
Castle Street, Portaferry. *Tel* 028 4272
8062. daily. 25 Dec. 8



Ballycopeland Windmill, which dates back to 1784

# Mount Stewart House **©**

See pp282-3.

# Hillsborough @

Road map D2. Co Down. May 2,600.
The Square (028 9268 9717).
www.discovernorthernireland.com

Dotted with craft shops and restaurants, this Georgian town lies less than 16 km (10 miles) from Belfast.

Hillsborough Castle, with its elaborate wrought-iron gates and coat of arms, is where visiting dignitaries to Northern Ireland normally stay.

Across from the 18th-century Market House in the town square is Hillsborough Fort. An artillery fort dating from 1650, it was remodelled in the 18th century for feasts held by the descendants of Arthur Hill, founder of the town.

**♣** Hillsborough Castle

Tel 028 9268 1309. Easter—Sep: Sat only (call to check times).

## ♣ Hillsborough Fort

Access from town square or car park at Forest Park. *Tel* 028 9268 3285.

daily.



Terraced houses in the town of Hillsborough

n Down County Museum

English Street, The Mall. *Tel* 028 4461 5218. daily. 25–26 Dec; Sat & Sun am & Itd. in factorial www.downcountymuseum.com

#### **Environs**

into the sea.

There are several sights linked to St Patrick on the outskirts of Downpatrick. **Struell Wells**, believed to be a former pagan place of worship that the saint blessed, has a ruined church, 17th-century bath houses and good potential for a picnic. Further out and to the north at **Saul**, where St Patrick landed

and began his Irish mission in 432, is a small memorial church.

The nearby hill of **Slieve Patrick** is an important place of pilgrimage and has a granite figure of the saint at its summit. An open-air mass is celebrated here every June.

Not far from the banks of the River Quoile is the Cistercian Inch Abbey, founded by John de Courcy in about 1180. Its attractive marshland setting is more memorable than its remains, but it's worth a visit.

#### 1nch Abbey

5 km (3 miles) NW of Downpatrick.

daily: www.ehsni.gov.uk

# Downpatrick 20

Road map E2. Co Down. 

10,300. 

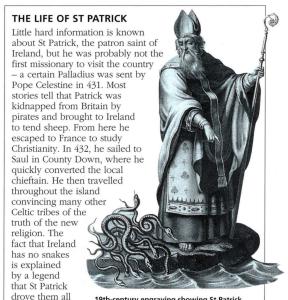
153a Market St (028
4461 2233). 

101-Aug: daily; Jun & Sep: Mon-Sat. 

Sat.

Were it not for its strong links with St Patrick, Downpatrick would attract few visitors. The Protestant **Down Cathedral**, high on the Hill of Down, dates in its present form from the early 19th century – previous incarnations have been razed. In the churchyard is a well-worn 10th-century cross and the reputed burial place of St Patrick, marked by a 20th-century granite slab with the inscription "Patric".

Down County Museum, which is housed in the 18th-century Old County Gaol, features refurbished cells and exhibits relating to St Patrick, while close by is the Mound of Down, a large Norman motte and bailey.



19th-century engraving showing St Patrick banishing all snakes from Ireland

# Mount Stewart House ®



Lord Castlereagh (1769-1822)

This grand 19th-century house has a splendid interior, but it is the magnificent gardens which are the main attraction. These were planted only in the 1920s, but the exotic plants and trees have thrived in the area's subtropical microclimate. Now owned by the National Trust, Mount Stewart used to belong

to the Londonderry family,

the most famous of whom was Lord Castlereagh, British Foreign Secretary from 1812 until his death in 1822.



comprises symmetrical beds which in summer are full of rich blue, yellow and orange flowers, complemented by purple foliage.





A yew hedge in the shape of a shamrock encloses this topiary Irish harp and a striking flowerbed designed in the form of a red hand, emblem of Ulster.



Fountain



Italian Garden

The flowers in the Italian Garden, the largest of the formal gardens, are planted so that strong oranges and reds on the east side contrast with the softer pinks, whites and blues on the west.

## THE TEMPLE OF THE WINDS

This banqueting pavilion looks over Strangford Lough to the east of the house. It was built in 1785 by James "Athenian" Stuart, a renowned pioneer of Neo-Classical architecture, who took his inspiration from the Tower of the Winds in Athens. Restored in the 1960s and now being worked on once more, the building's finest features are the spiral staircase and the upper room's plasterwork ceiling and exquisite inlaid floor.



The Spanish Garden is framed by a neat arcade of clipped cypress trees.



# **★** Hambletonian by George Stubbs

The Dining Room contains 22 chairs used at the Congress of Vienna (1815) and given to Lord Castlereagh in recognition of his role
\_\_\_\_ in the talks.

This picture of the celebrated racehorse at Newmarket, painted in 1799, hangs halfway up the main staircase.

Entrance

## **VISITORS' CHECKLIST**

Road map E2. 3 km (2 miles) N of Greyabbey, Co Down. Tel 028 4278 8387. Throm Belfast.

House May-Sep: daily (not rue in May & Jun); Easter, Apr & Oct: noon-6pm Sat, Sun & public hols. Temple Apr-Oct: 2-5pm Sun & public hols. Gardens Apr-Oct: daily; Mar: Sat, Sun & public hols. Lake all year.



room in the house, this hall features Ionic stone pillars which have been painted to resemble green marble. It is lit by an impressive glass dome.

The Chapel, converted from a sitting room in 1884, is still used by the Londonderry family.

## STAR FEATURES

- ★ Dodo Terrace
- ★ Hambletonian by George Stubbs
- ★ Shamrock Garden

#### **★** Dodo Terrace

The stone dodos and ark on this terrace relate to the Ark Club, a social circle set up by Lady Londonderry in London during World War I. Each member was given an animal nickname.



Lady Bangor's Gothic boudoir in Castle Ward on the Lecale Peninsula

# Lecale Peninsula 33

Road map E2. Co Down. 10 to Ardglass. 11 Downpatrick (028 4461 2233). 12 Castle Ward Opera Festival (Jun; 028 9066 1090).

www.discovernorthernisland.com

A good way to get to this part of County Down is to take the car ferry from Portaferry on the Ards Peninsula to Strangford. Just outside this tiny port is Castle Ward, the estate of Lord and Lady Bangor, who seemed to argue about everything including the design of their 18th-century mansion. His choice, Palladian, can be seen at the front, while her favourite Gothic style influences the garden facade. Likewise, the interior is a mix of Classical and Gothic fantasy. Look out for Lady Bangor's cluttered boudoir, with its extravagant fan-vaulted ceiling based on Henry VIII's chapel in Westminster Abbey. Around the grounds are trails, gardens, play areas and a farmyard with a working corn mill.

About 4 km (2.5 miles) south of Strangford, the A2 passes **Kilclief Castle**, dating from the 15th century, one of the oldest tower houses (*see p20*) in Ireland. The road continues to **Ardglass**, now a small fishing village but once Ulster's busiest harbour. A cluster of castles was erected between the 14th and 16th centuries to protect the port, of which six remain. Only one of these is open to the public, **Jordan's Castle**. **St John's Point**. 6 km (3.5 miles)

southwest of Ardglass, offering a sweeping panorama over Dundrum Bay.

## Castle Ward

On A25, 2.5 km (1.5 miles) W of Strangford. Tel 028 4488 1204. House Mid-Mar-Apr. Sat, Sun, & public hols (pm only); May: Wed-Mon (pm only); Jun-Aug: daily (pm only); Sep-Oct: Sat-Sun (pm only). Adaily. Mid-Car park. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

♣ Jordan's Castle
Ardglass. ☐ Jul–Aug: Tue–Sun. 🌠

# Castlewellan Forest Park 20

Road map D2. Main St, Castlewellan, Co Down. *Tel* 028 4377 8664. daily. for car park.

The outstanding feature of Castlewellan Forest Park, in the foothills of the Mourne Mountains, is its magnificent arboretum. This has grown far beyond the original walled garden, begun in 1740, and now comprises hothouses, dwarf conifer beds and a rhododendron wood.

Elsewhere in the park are a 19th-century Scottish baronialstyle castle (now a conference centre), a lake and pleasant woodlands; these are at their most colourful in autumn.

# Mountains of Mourne **3**

Road map D2. Co Down. to Newry. to Newcastle. 10–14 Central Promenade, Newcastle (028 4372 2222).

These mountains occupy just a small corner of County Down, with no more than a dozen peaks surpassing 600 m (2,000 ft), and yet they attract thousands of visitors each year.

Only one road of any size, the B27 between Kilkeel and Hilltown, crosses the Mournes, making this ideal territory for walkers. A popular but tough trail runs from **Newcastle**, the main gateway to the area, up to the peak of **Slieve Donard**: at 848 m (2,781 ft), this is the highest mountain in the range. Part of the route follows the **Mourne Wall**, which was erected in 1904–22 to enclose the catchment area of the two reservoirs in the **Silent Valley**.

Over 20 short hikes are to be enjoyed in the area. These range from easy strolls around Rostrevor Forest to rather more arduous treks up Slieve Muck and other Mourne peaks.

Tourist offices will have details.

Some 35 km (22 miles) north of Newcastle, the **Legananny Dolmen** (see p32) is one of the finest and most photographed ancient sights in the



Rounded peaks of the Mountains of Mourne

# A Tour of the Mourne Coast @

Newcastle, where, in the words of the 19th-century songwriter Percy French, "the Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the sea", makes a good base from which to explore this area. Driving up and down the dipping roads of the Mournes is one of the highlights of a trip to Northern Ireland. Along the coast, the road skirts between the foothills and the Irish Sea, providing lovely views and linking a variety of fishing villages and historic castles. Heading inland, you pass through an emptier landscape of moorland, purple with heather. The Silent Valley, with a visitors'

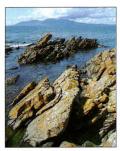
centre and well-marked paths, is the only area to have been developed especially for tourists.

Tollymore Forest Park ③

Stieve

Muck

This attractive park is dotted with follies like the Gothic Gate that formed part of the original 18th-century estate.



### Dundrum (2)

The town is overlooked by the ruins of a Norman castle, and from the nearby bay you can see the mountains rising in the distance.

BELEAST

Newcastle (1)

72

# Spelga Dam 4

rlingford

There are stunning views north from the Spelga Dam over the Mourne foothills.

A popular resort since the early 19th century, Newcastle has a promenade overlooking a sweeping, sandy beach.



NEWRY 5

Rostrevor ③
This tranquil and leafy
Victorian resort nestles below the peak of Slieve
Martin, on the shores of Carling-ford Lough.

# Annalong

Silent Valley ①
The valley is closed

to traffic, but you can walk to the top of Ben Crom Mountain from the car park, or in summer go by bus.



Length: 85 km (53 miles).
Stopping-off points: Newcastle has the biggest choice of pubs and restaurants. Dundrum,
Annalong, Kilkeel and Rostrevor all have pubs, and a café opens in the Silent Valley in summer.
The Spelga Dam and Tollymore Forest Park are good picnic spots.
(See also pp387–9.)

# Green Castle 6

Erected in the 13th century, Green Castle lies at the end of a single track road on a rocky outcrop at the entrance to Carlingford Lough.

0 kilometres

0 miles



Tour route

Other roads

Viewpoint

# MURPH





# TRAVELLERS' NEEDS



WHERE TO STAY 288–319
RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND PUBS 320–351
SHOPPING IN IRELAND 352–357
ENTERTAINMENT IN IRELAND 358–367



# WHERE TO STAY

hether you are staying in exclusive luxury or modest self-catering accommodation, one thing you can be certain of in Ireland is that you'll receive a warm welcome. The Irish are renowned for their friendliness. Even in big corporate hotels, where you might expect the reception to be more impersonal, the staff go out of their way to be hospitable. The choice is enormous: you can stay in an elegant 18th-century country house, a luxurious (or slightly run-down) castle, a Vic-

trailer and camping sites, or even your own horse-drawn caravan. We give details here of the types of accommodation available, tourist board ratings and the choices for house or apartment rental. Our listings on pages 294–319 recommend over 300 hotels around the country – all places of quality, ranging from simple bed-and-breakfast to unashamed luxury accommodation. Fáilte Ireland (the Irish Tourist Board) and the North-

on a working farm. For the hardier vis-

itor there are good hostels, plenty of

torian town house, an old-fashioned ern Ireland Tourist Board both publish commercial hotel, a cosy village inn, or comprehensive guides.



Entrance hall of the Delphi Lodge (see p311) in Leenane

### **HOTELS**

At the top of the price range there are a handful of expensive, luxury hotels in castles and stately country houses. Magnificently furnished and run, they offer maximum comfort, delicious food and a wide range of sports facilities – either owned by the hotel or available close by. Salmon-fishing, foxhunting and shooting can be arranged as well as riding, golf, sailing and cycling.

If your priority is a full range of indoor facilities, such as a gym, sauna and swimming pool, the modern hotel chains will best cater to your needs. Jury's-Doyle and Great Southern Hotels offer this standard of accommodation in the Republic, as does Hastings Hotels in Northern Ireland. However, these establishments can

sometimes lack the charm and individuality of privately run hotels.

Coastal resort hotels usually offer a range of sports activities or can advise you on the best places to go. In smaller towns, the main hotel is often the social centre of the area with a lively public bar, popular with locals and guests alike.

The shamrock symbols of both the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Fáilte Ireland are displayed by hotels (and other forms of accommodation) that have been inspected and officially approved.

# COUNTRY HOUSE ACCOMMODATION

Visitors wishing to stay in a period country home and sample authentic Irish country life can contact a specialist

organization called Hidden Ireland. However, this type of accommodation may not suit everybody, as the houses are not guesthouses, hotels or bedand-breakfast establishments, but something quite different. You should therefore not expect the same facilities and service usually found in a hotel, such as a swimming pool, elevators, televisions, porters and room service. Instead, the experience is a very intimate one; guests dine together with their host and hostess as if at a private dinner party. Many of the houses have been in the same family for hundreds of years and the history attached to them can be fascinating. Prices reflect the type of house and the standard of accommodation, but all offer excellent value for money and



The entrance to the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin



Bar at the Hunter's Hotel (see p301) in Rathnew, County Wicklow

a first-hand experience of an aspect of the Irish way of life.

There are many other private residences that also take paying guests. Two useful publications, *Friendly Homes of Ireland* and *Ireland's Blue Book*, provide listings and information and are available from tourist offices and bookshops. Tourist boards throughout Ireland also supply listings and make reservations.

### **GUESTHOUSES**

Most guesthouses are found in cities and large towns. They are usually converted family homes and have an atmosphere all of their own. Most offer a good-value evening meal and all give you a delicious full Irish breakfast (see p322). Top-of-the-range guesthouses can be just as good, and sometimes even better, than hotels. You will see a much more personal side of a town or city while staying at a guesthouse. If you are looking for anonymity, however, a guesthouse may not suit you - both the proprietor and your fellow guests are likely to try and draw you into conversation.

There are plenty of good guesthouses to choose from in the Dublin area and the prices are usually reasonable. The Irish Hotels Federation publishes a useful booklet with guesthouse listings that cover the whole of Ireland including Dublin. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board publishes its own

similar booklet, called Where to Stay in Northern Ireland. This includes a comprehensive list of approved guesthouses which is updated annually. However, it is hard to beat personal recommendations you might receive from fellow guests.



Bedroom at Enniscoe House (see p310), Crossmolina in County Mayo

### PRICES

Room rates advertised in both Northern Ireland and the Republic are inclusive of tax and service. In general, prices in the Republic are marginally cheaper than in the North. Hotel rates can vary by as much as 40 per cent depending on the time of year; country house rates also vary a great deal according to the season. Guesthouse prices are influenced more by their location in relation to tourist sights and public transport.

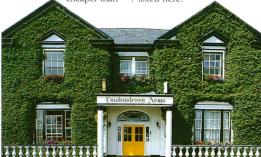
For those on a tight budget, farmhouse accommodation represents excellent value for money, though the cheapest option is self-catering in a rented cottage (see p290).

### TIPPING

Tipping in Ireland is a matter of personal discretion but is not common practice, even at the larger hotels. Tasks performed by staff are considered part of the service. Tipping is not expected, for example, for carrying bags to your room or for serving drinks. However, it is usual to tip the waiting staff in hotel restaurants: the standard tip is around 10 per cent and anything over 15 per cent of the bill would be considered generous.

### BOOKING

It is wise to reserve your accommodation during the peak season and public holidays (see p51), particularly if your visit coincides with a local festival or major sporting event (see pp28-9). Fáilte Ireland can offer advice and make reservations through its nationwide accommodation service: the Northern Ireland Tourist Board runs a similar service. Central reservation facilities are available at the hotel chains that have been listed here.



Façade of the Londonderry Arms (see p318) in Carnlough, County Antrim



A bed-and-breakfast on the River Corrib in Galway

# BED-AND-BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION

Ireland has the reputation for the best B&Bs in Europe. You will never be far from a place to stay, even in the remotest spots. Your welcome will always be friendly and the food and company excellent. Even if the house is no architectural beauty, the comfort and atmosphere will more than compensate. Not all bedrooms have bathrooms en suite. When one is available, you may have to pay a little extra, but considering the inexpensive rates, the surcharge is negligible.

The Irish swear by their B&Bs and many stay in them by choice rather than suffer the impersonality and prices of the mainstream hotels; frequent visitors to Ireland agree. The Bed and Breakfast Association will provide details of bed-and-breakfast accommodation in Northern Ireland, while the Town and Country Homes Association covers the Republic.

### **FARMHOUSES**

Farmhouse vacations are a popular tradition in Ireland. **Irish Farmhouse Holidays Ltd** has a list of farmhouses in the Republic that take paying guests. You can stay for one night or longer and they

make an excellent base for touring the countryside. As with most things in Ireland, it is the hospitality and friendliness of the people that makes staying on a farm so memorable. You get a feel of rural Ireland with its rich agricultural heritage, and the families are determined you will enjoy every moment of your stay.

# HOUSE AND APARTMENT RENTALS

Vacations spent in rental houses are an increasingly popular option in Ireland and there are properties to rent all over the country. You are likely to have more choice in the south and west as these areas have traditionally attracted the majority of tourists. Fáilte Ireland has a small section in its accommodation guide, but local tourist offices have lists

of apartments and houses to rent in their area. It is also worth looking for ads in the newspapers, both local and international. Accommodation can range from quaint, stone cottages, converted barns and stable yards to more modern, purpose-built bungalows. All will generally have adequate facilities, with simple but comfortable furnishings, modern kitchen equipment and televisions.

The properties available through the popular organization Rent an Irish Cottage are built in traditional style with whitewashed walls inside and out, and painted roofs and windows; the decor is also traditional – simple and attractive. Locations are generally superb; the only possible criticism is, if you wanted to be "away from it all", they are built in clusters of about ten, so there isn't a great deal of privacy.

At the other end of the scale, you could rent a castle or country house, furnished with paintings and antiques. In some cases, the properties are fully staffed. A company called **Elegant Ireland** has a selection of such properties.

# CAMPING, TRAILERS AND MOTOR HOMES

A list of fully inspected camping and trailer parks is given in the Fáilte Ireland accommodation guide. Many of the camp sites and parks offer additional facilities – these might include a shop, restaurant or café/snack bar, an indoor games room, laundry, tennis court and minature golf course. The standard and con-



A farmhouse in Clonakilty, County Cork



Traditional painted horse-drawn caravan from Slattery's in Tralee

dition of these facilities will vary but you can be reliably guided by the tourist board's star ratings: four-star parks have an extensive range of facilities with a high standard of management; three-star parks have good facilities and management; two-star parks offer limited facilities and good management and the one-star parks have the minimum facilities required for registration with Fáilte Ireland. A complete list of approved camping sites

in the North is produced by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

If you want to experience the Irish countryside at a more leisurely pace, it is possible to hire a traditional horsedrawn carayan. Two of the best

companies specializing in this type of trip are Kilvahan Caravans, based at Portlaoise in the Midlands, and Slattery's Travel Agency in Tralee, County Kerry.

# YOUTH HOSTELS

There are 31 youth hostels registered with An Óige (the Irish Youth Hostel Association), set in some wonderfully scenic areas of Ireland in buildings ranging from castles to military barracks. Accommodation is generally provided in simple dormitories with comfortable beds and basic cooking facilities. You can only use these hostels if you are a member of An Óige or

another youth organization affiliated to the International Youth Hostel Federation. Charges vary according to the standard of accommodation, location and season. Northern Ireland is covered by the

Youth Hostel Association of Northern Ireland, which has 8 registered hostels.

**Independent Holiday Hostels** of Ireland publishes a guide to 151 independent hostels, and places such as universities offer similar inexpensive accommodation. Tourist boards have listings of those they recommend.

### DISABLED TRAVELLERS

A fact sheet for disabled visitors can be obtained from tourist offices, Dublin Tourism, and Fáilte Ireland, and in their main accommodation guide there is a symbol for wheelchair accessibility. A similar symbol is used in the accommodation listings in this book (see pp294-319). Comhairle (see pp372-3) is another body that offers

information on accommodation for the disabled. The annual publication

Holidays in the British Isles caters specifically for the disabled traveller and covers Northern Ireland. There is also a guide,

with comprehensive listings. available from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board entitled Accessible Accommodation.

Fáilte Ireland sign for

approved accommodation



Typical bed-and-breakfast sign in Pettigo, County Donegal

# DIRECTORY

# An Óige (Irish YHA)

61 Mountjoy St, Dublin 7. Tel 01 830 4555.

www.irelandyha.org

### Bed and Breakfast Ass'n

30 St Patrick's Rd, Downpatrick. Tel 028 4461 5542.

### **Elegant Ireland**

15 Harcourt St, Dublin 2. Tel 01 475 1665. www.elegant.ie

# **Great Southern Hotels**

6 Charlemont Terrace, Crofton Rd. Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin. Tel 1850 383848. www.gsh.ie

### **Hastings Hotels**

Midland Building, Whitla St. Belfast. Tel 028 9075 1066. www.hastingshotels.com

**Hidden Ireland** 

P.O. Box 31, Westport, Co Mayo. Tel 01 662 7166. www hidden-ireland com

### Independent Holiday Hostels of Ireland

57 Lower Gardiner St. Dublin 1. Tel 01 836 4700. www.hostels-ireland.com

### Irish Farmhouse **Holidays Ltd**

2 Michael St. Limerick. Tel 061 400700. www.irishfarmholidays.com

### Irish Hotels Federation

13 Northbrook Rd, Dublin 6. Tel 01 497 6459.

www.irelandhotels.com

### Jury's-Doyle Hotels

Pembroke Rd, Dublin 4. Tel 01 660 5000

www.jurysdoyle.com

# Kilvahan Caravans

Kilvahan, Portlaoise, Co Laois. Tel 0502 27048.

www.horsedrawncaravans.com

### Rent an Irish Cottage

51 O'Connell St, Limerick. Tel 061 411109.

www.rentacotttage.ie

# Slattery's Travel Agency

1 Russell St. Tralee, Co Kerry. Tel 066 718 6200.

www.slatterys.com

### **Town and Country Homes Association**

Bellek Rd. Ballyshannon. Co Donegal. Tel 071 985 1377.

### YHA Northern Ireland

22-32 Donegall Rd, Belfast. Tel 028 9032 4733. www.hini.org.uk

# Ireland's Best: Hotels

The hotels featured here are a selection from our lists of recommended places to stay on pages 294-319. They give an indication of the very best that Ireland has to offer, ranging from private establishments which are members of the Hidden Ireland group (see p288) to the efficiency and luxury of five-star hotels and the romance of historic castles. All are impressive places, both for their setting and the buildings themselves.



# Delphi Lodge

The atmosphere at this comfortable, wellrun fishing lodge is extremely relaxing. The River Delphi and nearby loughs provide plenty of sport. (See p311.)



### St Ernan's House

This elegant, pink Regency country bouse is situated on its own private island not far from Donegal. (See p313.)

> NORTHWEST TRELAND

N 8 5 8 H

# This huge Gothicstyle edifice is set on the shores of Lough Corrib.

Ashford Castle

The standard of service is impeccable and the food is excellent. (See p310.)





THE WEST

THE LOWER SHANNON



# Adare Manor

Set in a large estate beside one of the prettiest villages in the country, this luxurious botel occupies a magnificent Victorian Gothic mansion. (See p307.)



# CORK AND KERR

# Bantry House

The spacious library in this 18th-century bouse looks out on to the gardens. Many of the bedrooms enjoy superb views of Bantry Bay. (See pp168-9 and p302.)



# **Streeve Hill**

This 18th-century dower house is a member of the Hidden Ireland group. A stay here gives access to the stunning gardens of Drenagh House, which include the hidden Moon Garden. (See p319.)



# Hunter's Hotel

Cobbled courtyards, paddocks and a magnificent garden are only a few of the attractions of this friendly and comfortable inn. The building dates back to 1720, and is owned and run by the fourth generation of the Hunter family. (See p301.)





THE MIDLANDS

NORTHERN

IRELAND



### Roundwood House

This fine, small Palladian house is set in chestnut and beech woods. The Slieve Bloom Mountains are close by and you can fish and play golf locally. The lovely rooms are filled with antiques, books and pictures and the atmosphere is one of relaxed informality. (See p316.)

0 kilometres 50

0 miles 25

### Waterford Castle

The ultimate in "getting away from it all", this 15th-century castle sits on a beautifully located island in the estuary of the River Suir. The hotel is reachable only by its own private ferry. (See p302.)



# Choosing a Hotel

These hotels have been selected for their good value, facilities and location. They are listed by region, starting with Dublin, and then by price. Price bands for Northern Ireland are given on pages 317 and 319. Map references refer either to the Dublin Street Finder on pages 116 and 117, or the road map on the inside back cover.

### **PRICE CATEGORIES**

For a double room per night, including tax, service charges and breakfast. These categories are for hotels in the Republic, which has adopted the euro.

€ under 65 euros € 65–130 euros € € 130–190 euros € € € 190–260 euros € € € € euros

# **DUBLIN**

### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Georgian Hotel

111 法

18-22 Baggot St Lower, Dublin 2 Tel 01 634 5000 Fax 01 634 5100 Rooms 47

**©©©** Map F5

Warm and friendly, this three-star hotel consists of three Georgian houses with a modern extension and is well located, just a short stroll from St Stephen's Green. Comfortably done-up bedrooms are neat and well equipped. Complimentary guest parking is available. There's a traditional Irish bar, Maguires. www.georgianhotel.ie

### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Harcourt Hotel

図リオ

€€€

60 Harcourt St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 478 3677 Fax 01 475 2013 Rooms 102

Map D5

Just off St Stephen's Green, Harcourt Hotel boasts a central location. Though the interior is unremarkable, bedrooms are modern and well equipped. There is a popular nightclub, D-Two, situated in the basement of the hotel which is a draw for late-night revellers. www.harcourthotel.ie

# SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Kilronan House

**©©©** 

70 Adelaide Rd, Dublin 2 Tel 01 475 5266 Fax 01 478 2841 Rooms 15

27 Leeson St Lower, Dublin 2 Tel 01 676 3380 Fax 01 661 8273 Rooms 20

Situated on a leafy street near St Stephen's Green, around the corner from the National Concert Hall, this listed town house dates from 1834. Still retaining its Georgian character, it is newly refurbished with modern comforts, including orthopaedic beds. Delicious breakfasts with home-made breads. Friendly hosts. **www.dublinn.com** 

# SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Leeson Hotel

LY MAN

Close to St Stephen's Green, this cheerfully decorated hotel is spread across two Georgian buildings. The ambience is relaxed and informal, and service is of a high quality. Its bar, Kobra, is elegant with wood furnishings. Bedrooms are tidy and comfortable, if on the small side. Breakfast is a weak point. [Lh@eircom.net]

### **SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Longfields**

和日本

€€€

10 Fitzwilliam St Lower, Dublin 2 Tel 01 676 1367 Fax 01 676 1542 Rooms 26

is friendly. Enclosed parking is provided. Good value for families. www.molesworthcourt.ie

Map F5

Two interconnected Georgian buildings make up this small, stylish hotel, situated between the appealing Fitzwilliam and Merrion Squares. Furnished with antiques and reproduction pieces, it exudes the warmth of a private home. Rooms have an individual character. Good restaurant, Stephen McAllister, on site. **www.longfields.ie** 

### **SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Molesworth Court Suites**

×

€€€

Molesworth Court, Schoolhouse Lane, Dublin 2 Tel 01 676 4799 Fax 01 676 4982 Rooms 11 Map E4
Tucked away in a quiet lane off the fashionable Molesworth Street, this four-star hotel comprises 12 purpose-built, self-contained apartments and penthouses. Equipped with modern conveniences, rooms are clean and cosy. Service

### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Mont Clare

11 大

€€€

Merrion Square, Dublin 2 Tel 01 607 3800 Fax 01 661 5663 Rooms 80

Map F

Though not as grand as its sister hotel, the Davenport opposite, Mont Clare enjoys a good location and is traditionally furnished in mahogany and brass. Well-appointed bedrooms are air conditioned and tastefully decorated. The sizeable and popular bar serves carvery lunches. Guests may visit the gym across the road. **www.ocallaghanhotels.ie** 

# SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Morgan Hotel

€€€

10 Fleet St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 679 3939 Fax 01 679 3946 Rooms 61

Map D3

In the heart of Temple Bar, this self-styled boutique hotel is contemporary in design with clean lines and uncluttered public spaces. Minimalistic bedrooms have beech wood furnishings, cotton linen and CD systems. The ambience is relaxing, though rooms overlooking the street can be noisy. There's a fine Morgan bar. www.themorgan.com

# **SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Number 31**

31 Leeson Close, Leeson St Lower, Dublin 2 Tel 01 676 5011 Fax 01 676 2929 Rooms 20

Map E5

Reputedly the most stylish guesthouse in the city, this elegant Georgian house is more of a boutique hotel than a B&B, with individually decorated, luxurious bedrooms. The Coach House features a collection of original art and a sunken seating area. Delicious breakfasts are served in the plant-filled conservatory. www.number31.ie

### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Russell Court

別り大

€€€

21-25 Harcourt St. Dublin 2 Tel 01 478 4066 Fax 01 478 4994 Rooms 46

Map D5

Jolly and welcoming, Russell Court is a good choice for younger clientele. Bedrooms are neat and service is modest. The hotel's main attraction lies in its upbeat nightclubs – Bojangles for the 30-plus, and Ruby's for a younger crowd. At the rear, Dicey's Garden is a popular beer garden. Trams pass at the front of the hotel. www.russellcourthotel.ie

### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Stauntons on the Green

83 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 Tel 01 478 2300 Fax 01 478 2263 Rooms 38

Map D5

Beside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this guesthouse offers cosy and modest accommodation in three terraced Georgian houses. While all bedrooms are reasonably equipped and en suite, those to the rear are quieter, with views of the private garden and Iveagh gardens. Valet-serviced parking available. www.dublincityrooms.com

### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Stephen's Hall Hotel

河田 大 €€€

14-17 Leeson St Lower, Dublin 2 Tel 01 638 1111 Fax 01 638 1122 Rooms 33

Map F5

Close to St Stephen's Green, Stephen's Hall Hotel provides suites, which include an attached kitchen. Its proximity to the vibrant city centre makes it a very good-value family option. The hotel has been recently refurbished and there's a fine new restaurant. Underground parking is available. www.stephens-hall.com

# SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Trinity Lodge

€€€

12 South Frederick St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 617 0900 Fax 01 617 0999 Rooms 16

Map E4

Close to Grafton Street and a stone's throw from Trinity College, this Georgian town house enjoys one of the best locations in town. Though traditional in style, it is furnished with modern conveniences. Warmly-coloured en suite bedrooms are well maintained. Massage and aromatherapy treatments available. www.trinitylodge.com

### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Browne's

25 11 '∀'

€€€€

22 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 Tel 01 638 3939 Fax 01 638 3900 Rooms 11

Map D4

Set in a Georgian house overlooking St Stephen's Green, this charming and intimate boutique hotel is stylishly furnished with antiques and quality reproduction pieces. Each of the bedrooms is individually designed with comfort and character in mind. The sophisticated Brasserie restaurant serves outstanding food. www.brownesdublin.com

# **SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Buswells**

**₩** 11 ₩

€€€€

25 Moleswoth St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 614 6500 Fax 01 676 2090 Rooms 69

Map E4

Comprising five Georgian town houses, this slightly old-fashioned hotel has been in operation since 1882. It has a central location beside government buildings and on a street renowned for high-level commercial art galleries. The sophisticated interior is done in warm colours. Frequented by political figures. www.quinnhotels.com

# SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Temple Bar Hotel

砂川大

€€€€

Fleet St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 677 3333 Fax 01 677 3088 Rooms 129

Map D3

Its location in the heart of Temple Bar - a lively area, with several pubs and restaurants - makes this modern hotel popular for stag and hen parties. Bedrooms are clean and adequate, if a little on the small side and lacking in character. Multi-storey parking nearby. www.tbh.ie

### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Conrad Hotel

回日大豆

€€€€€

Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2 Tel 01 602 8900 Fax 01 676 5424 Rooms 192

Map D5

Opposite the National Concert Hall, this international-style hotel is geared towards business people. The decor is tasteful and the atmosphere airy. Bedrooms are fitted out in a contemporary style with light-wood furnishings and comfortable beds. The higher floors have good views. Professional service. www.conradhotels.com

### **SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Davenport**

Merrion Square, Dublin 2 Tel 01 607 3500 Fax 01 661 5663 Rooms 115

Map F4

Close to the National Gallery, this hotel lies in the heart of Georgian Dublin. The Neo-Classical façade dates from 1863. Mahogany, brass and marble furnishings give it the feel of a gentleman's club. Ample bedrooms are well appointed with warmly coloured decor. There's a fitness suite and a business centre. www.ocallaghanhotels.ie

# SOUTHEAST DUBLIN The Merrion

11 金 ★ V

€€€€€ Map E4

Merrion St Upper, Dublin 2 Tel 01 603 0600 Fax 01 603 0700 Rooms 142

In the heart of Georgian Dublin, the Merrion is an elegant and stylish oasis with open log fires, opulent interiors and a collection of Irish art and period antiques. It's a landmark hotel, comprising four listed town houses from the 1760s, sensitively restored to their original grandeur. Guests can use the excellent Tethra Spa. www.merrionhotel.ie

# SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Westbury Hotel

₩ 11 ★ 17

€€€€€

Grafton St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 679 1122 Fax 01 679 7078 Rooms 205

Map D4

Enjoying possibly the most convenient location in the city, the Westbury is only seconds from Dublin's main shopping street. The first-floor lobby of this smart, ritzy, yet traditionally-styled hotel, is a popular meeting place for afternoon tea. Underground parking comes with free valet service. There's also a small gymnasium. www.jurysdoyle.com

# SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Westin Hotel

11 大 1 €€€€€

Map D3

College Green, Dublin 2 Tel 01 645 1000 Fax 01 645 1234 Rooms 163

Two 19th-century landmark buildings and part of the former Allied Irish Bank were reconstructed to create this sizeable hotel, across the street from Trinity College. Well-appointed bedrooms are furnished to a high standard. The beds are particularly comfortable. The former vaults of the bank are now a bar, the Mint. www.westin.com

### SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Avalon House

1

E

55 Aungier St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 475 0001 Fax 01 475 0303 Rooms 70

Map C4

One of the longest established hostels in the city, the centrally located Avalon House provides cheap and cheerful accommodation in a restored redbrick Victorian building. Rooms are clean, with pine and tile floors, high ceilings and an open fire. Popular with young, independent travellers. There's a café in the front. www.avalon-house.ie

### SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Central Hotel

到日大

66

1-5 Exchequer St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 679 7302 Fax 01 679 7303 Rooms 70

Map D5

Established in 1887, this three-star hotel is aptly named, given its convenient location, very close to Grafton Street. Recently refurbished with modern facilities, it retains a somewhat old-fashioned atmosphere, with traditional, yet cosy, decor. Bedrooms are neat, functional and reasonably priced. www.centralhotet.le

### SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Blooms Hotel

1

Anglesea St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 671 5622 Fax 01 671 5997 Rooms 97

**©©©®** 

On the fringes of bustling Temple Bar and close to Trinity College, Blooms Hotel's location is its main selling point. Unremarkable inside, it appeals with its modern exterior. Compact bedrooms are adequate, but those at the front are preferable. There's live music in the busy Vat House Bar, while Club M is a popular nighclub. **www.blooms.ie** 

### SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Grafton Capital Hotel

包 11 字

©©© Map D4

Located in the centre, this modern hotel with a Georgian façade offers neat and well-furnished accommodation at reasonable prices. Bedrooms provide all modern facilities. The popular bar, also a casual dining restaurant and night-club, features live music. Multi-storey parking nearby. Business facilities available. www.graftoncapitalhotel.com

# SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Jury's Christchurch Inn

包刊大

€€€

Christ Church Place, Dublin 8 Tel 01 454 0000 Fax 01 454 0012 Rooms 182

Lower Stephen's St. Dublin 2 Tel 01 475 0888 Fax 01 648 1122 Rooms 75

Map B4

Opposite Christ Church Cathedral, in the old Viking centre of Dublin, this modern hotel lies within walking distance of Temple Bar and the city centre. Rooms are neat and well equipped. Bathrooms are adequate, if a little on the small side. Prices charged per room prove particularly good value for families. www.jurysdoyle.com

# SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Mercer Hotel

和田太

**€**€€

Lower Mercer St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 478 2179 Fax 01 672 9926 Rooms 41

. .

Well located in the city centre, this three-star hotel combines the traditional with the contemporary, as seen in its wooden floors, subtle colours and modern furnishings. Bedrooms are clean and comfortable and include all modern conveniences. Helpful staff. There's a newly refurbished bar as well as a restaurant, Cusacks. www.mercerhotel.ie

# SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Brooks

1 T

€€€€€

59–62 Drury St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 670 4000 Fax 01 670 4455 Rooms 98

Map D4

This immaculately maintained boutique hotel, excellently located just minutes from Grafton Street, has a club-like feel and welcoming ambience. It was built in 1997 and remodelled in 2003 with contemporary flourishes and warm colours, though the decor is tastefully traditional. Enjoys a great reputation. **www.sinnothotels.com** 

### SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Clarence Hotel

到计关型

€€€€€

6-8 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2 Tel 01 407 0800 Fax 01 407 0820 Rooms 49

Map C3

Overlooking the River Liffey, this 1852 Dublin landmark was bought by the rock band U2 in 1992. Extensively refurbished, it has acquired cult status. With original wood-panelling in arts and crafts style, and luxuriously furnished rooms, this old establishment successfully combines contemporary cool and comfort. www.theclarence.ie

### NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Clifden Guest House

€€

32 Gardiners Place, Dublin 1 **Tel** 01 874 6364 **Fax** 01 874 6122 **Rooms** 15

This three-star, family-run guesthouse is set in a four-storey Georgian town house, just a few minutes' walk from the centre of the city. The high-ceilinged rooms are functional, yet comfortably furnished and cheerfully decorated. They come in varying sizes; one of them can accommodate up to five people. **www.clifdenhouse.com** 

# NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Harvey's Hotel

€€

11 Upper Gardiner St, Dublin 1 Tel 01 874 8384 Fax 01 874 5510 Rooms 16

This very hospitable, family-run Georgian town house, north of the Liffey, is 10 minutes' walk from the top of O'Connell Street. Bedrooms are clean and pleasant. While some are a little jaded, most are nicely decorated. Those at the back are quieter. The atmosphere is friendly and relaxed. Non-smoking property. www.harveysquesthouse.com

# NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Cassidy's Hotel Cavendish Row, Upper O'Connell St, Dublin 1 Tel 01 878 0555 Fax 01 878 0687 Rooms 88

11 大

Map D2

This hotel is conveniently located at the top of O'Connell Street, opposite the Gate Theatre, in three adjoining redbrick Georgian town houses. The generously-proportioned rooms have been modernized, while retaining some period features. Spacious bedrooms are all en suite, with contemporary furnishings. www.cassidyshotel.com

### NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Gresham Hotel

図り大ツ

€€€

23 O'Connell St Upper, Dublin 1 **Tel** 01 874 6881 **Fax** 01 878 7175 **Rooms** 288

Map D1

One of Dublin's oldest and best-known hotels, the Gresham is a popular rendezvous spot with ever-lively public areas. It has been recently refurbished, with pleasant furnishings that combine classic and contemporary styles. Well-equipped bedrooms cheerfully decorated. A good business hotel. www.gresham-hotels.com

### NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Hotel Isaacs

1

€€€ Map E2

Store St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 855 0067 Fax 01 836 5390 Rooms 90

Conveniently located opposite the bus station, this three-star hotel is furnished in a contemporary style. Bedrooms are relaxing, if modest. A European-style café-bar serves light lunches. There's also an Italian restaurant, Il Vignardo. Minimum stay at weekends is two nights. www.isaacs.ie

### NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Royal Dublin

创工大

40-42 O'Connell St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 873 3666 Fax 01 873 3120 Rooms 120

Map D1

The modern Royal Dublin is located in one of Dublin's most famous and historic streets. The street has been extensively upgraded in recent times, making it much more pleasant than in the past. This hotel may be lacking in atmosphere, but the rooms are self-sufficient. Those at the rear are quieter. Friendly staff. www.royaldublin.com

### NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Clarion IFSC

€€€€

International Financial Service Centre, North Wall Quay, Dublin 1 Tel 01 433 8800 Rooms 163

Map F2

Overlooking the River Liffey, in the heart of the financial district, this hotel opened in 2001 and is becoming popular with tourists as much as with business travellers. Public spaces are bright, airy and minimalist in style. A short stroll from the centre, it offers well-designed and decent accommodation. www.clarionhotelifsc.com

### NORTH OF THE LIFFEY The Morrison

 $\mathbb{C}$  $\mathbb{C}$  $\mathbb{C}$  $\mathbb{C}$ **↑** 

Ormond Quay, Dublin 1 Tel 01 887 2400 Fax 01 878 3185 Rooms 139

Мар СЗ

Located on the quay overlooking the river, this luxurious contemporary hotel was built in 1999, with John Rocha as design consultant. The interior is a mix of high ceilings, dark woods, pale white walls, dim lighting, handcrafted Irish carpets and original art. Bedrooms have a modern design. There's a stylish restaurant, Halo. www.morrisonhotel.ie

### FURTHER AFIELD Bewley's Hotel

20 11 ★ W

Merrion Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 668 1111 Fax 01 668 1999 Rooms 304

This magnificent redbrick building, formerly a school, is now part of the reliable Bewley's chain of hotels. Comfortably furnished in a contemporary style, it has big and well-equipped bedrooms. Price is per room, which offers good value particularly for families. O'Connell's is a popular restaurant. **www.bewleyshotels.com** 

### **FURTHER AFIELD Clara House**

(€)(€)

23 Leinster Rd, Rathmines, Dublin 6 Tel 01 497 5904 Fax 01 497 5580 Rooms 13

Built in 1840, this listed redbrick Georgian house is a favoured B&B. It's a 15-minute walk from the city centre and there's a good bus route into town. The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. Secure private car park available at the rear of the house. Pleasant waterside walks along the canal are an added attraction. www.clarahouse.com

# FURTHER AFIELD Druid Lodge

€€

Killiney Hill Rd, Killiney, Co Dublin Tel 01 285 1632 Fax 01 284 8504 Rooms 4

Road map D4

Situated on picturesque Killiney Hill, overlooking the bay, Druid Lodge is 11 km (7 miles) south of Dublin city centre. It's a charming ivy-clad guesthouse, built in 1832 and named after the adjoining sacred site of Druid's Chair. Exuding a peaceful, old-world charm, it is well furnished and comfortable. www.druidlodge.com

# **FURTHER AFIELD Glenogra Guesthouse**

(F)(F)

64 Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 668 3661 Fax 01 668 3698 Rooms 13

This stylish and award-winning guesthouse provides pleasant and good-value B&B accommodation in this leafy, upmarket area of Dublin. The owners create a welcoming atmosphere for their guests. Bedrooms are well appointed and the breakfast is good. www.glenogra.com

### **FURTHER AFIELD Grand Canal Hotel**

回り大

(€)(€)

Grand Canal St, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 646 1000 Fax 01 646 1001 Rooms 142

Winner of the "New Hotel of the Year" Award in 2005, Grand Canal Hotel was built in 2004. It is spacious and modern, with a friendly staff. The on-site pub, Kitty O'Sheas, is one of the best in town. There's also a new restaurant, Ulysses. Convenient location between Trinity College and Landsdowne Road. www.grandcanalhotel.com

# FURTHER AFIELD Marble Hall Guest Accommodation

戸

€)€

81 Marlborough Rd, Donnybrook, Dublin 4 Tel 01 497 7350 Rooms 3

This much-loved house is set in a leafy residential area, a 20-minute walk from town and on an excellently serviced bus route. Victorian in style, it is meticulously maintained by Shelagh Conway, renowned for her excellent breakfasts. Bedrooms are spacious and tastefully decorated with antique furniture. www.marblehall.net

# FURTHER AFIELD Mount Herbert Hotel

11 大 🔻

7 Herbert Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 668 4321 Fax 01 660 7077 Rooms 180

Established as a hotel for over 50 years, Mount Herbert is located in a residential area close to the Landsdowne Road rugby and soccer stadium. It consists of a terrace of interconnecting houses decorated with modern furnishings. The en suite bedrooms are equipped with good facilities. www.mountherberthotel.ie

# **FURTHER AFIELD Tara Towers Hotel**

11 大

(€)(€)

Merrion Rd, Booterstown, Dublin 4 Tel 01 269 4666 Fax 01 269 1027 Rooms 111

South of the city centre, this three-star hotel is situated on the coast road. Dun Lagghaire is a 10-minute drive away. Ambience is relaxed and service modest. Bedrooms are comfortable and spacious, if rather basic in decor. There's a traditional restaurant on site. Well-serviced bus route and near-by DART station are add-ons. www.taratowers.com

# FURTHER AFIELD Anglesea Town House

€€€

63 Anglesea Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 668 3877 Fax 01 668 3461 Rooms 7

This Edwardian guesthouse, beautifully decorated and furnished, resembles a country house. Its discreet elegance and informal atmosphere is further enhanced by good housekeeping and warm hospitality. Pretty bedrooms are all en suite and very cosy. Helen Kirrane's award-winning breakfasts are superb. www.63anglesea.com

### **FURTHER AFIELD Belcamp Hutchinson**

(€)(€)(€)

Carrs Lane, Malahide Rd, Balgriffin, Dublin 17 Tel 01 846 0843 Fax 01 848 5703 Rooms 8

Only 15 minutes' drive from the airport, this secluded, creeper-clad Georgian house offers B&B accommodation. Welcoming hosts and large, high-ceilinged rooms make for a pleasant stay. Nearby, the picturesque seaside village of Malahide offers golf, tennis, sailing and horse-riding. www.belcamphutchinson.com

### FURTHER AFIELD Crowne Plaza Hotel

团 11 大 "∀"

Northwood Park, Santry Demesne, Santry, Dublin 9 Tel 01 862 8888 Fax 01 862 8800 Rooms 204

Set in mature parkland, just five minutes from Dublin Airport and 15 minutes from the city centre, the Crowne Plaza offers modern comfort. Rooms are well equipped and there's an on-site fitness centre. A 24-hour Courtesy Coach for the airport is available. Located close to the M1 and M50 motorways. www.cpdublin-airport.com

### FURTHER AFIELD Herbert Park Hotel

Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 667 2200 Fax 01 231 4289 Rooms 153

御竹木で

€€€

Overlooking the park from where it derived its name, this big contemporary hotel is bright and airy, with large public spaces. Materials used to furnish the interiors include polished granite, Irish abstract art, Irish furniture and glass walls. Bedrooms are well appointed and stylishly designed. www.herbertparkhotel.ie

### FURTHER AFIELD Raglan Lodge

€€€

10 Raglan Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 660 6697 Fax 01 660 6781 Rooms 7 This impressive redbrick Victorian house is set in the leafy residential Raglan Road, immortalized by the poet

Patrick Kavanagh. Though away from the hubbub of the city, it is only 20 minutes' walk to the centre. It provides the comforts of an elegantly furnished four-star guesthouse. Superb breakfasts.

### FURTHER AFIELD The Red Bank

€€€

6-7 Church St, Skerries, Co Dublin Tel 01 849 1005 Fax 01 849 1598 Rooms 18

Road map D3

On the premises of a former bank, in the heart of the village of Skerries, this guesthouse offers comfortably furnished rooms with good facilities. The award-winning Red Bank Restaurant has great character and specializes in seafood. Warm hospitality is quaranteed. Dublin Airport is a short drive from here. www.redbank.ie

### **FURTHER AFIELD Waterloo House**

包末

€€€

8–10 Waterloo Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 660 1888 Fax 01 667 1955 Rooms 17

A short walk from St Stephen's Green, this lovely guesthouse comprises two adjoining Georgian buildings on a treelined road, away from the bustle of the city. The ambience is informal and the bedrooms cosy. Good breakfast is served in a cheerful dining room. Off-street parking is provided. Non-smoking property. www.waterloohouse.ie

### **FURTHER AFIELD Butlers Town House**

**★** '∀'

€€€€

44 Landsdowne Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 667 4022 Fax 01 667 3960 Rooms 20

Luxuriously furnished in a country-house style, the Georgian Butlers Town House offers four-star accommodation. There are individually designed bedrooms with Egyptian cotton sheets. Good breakfast is served in the Conservatory Restaurant, which features an all-day menu, making this more of a small hotel than B&B. www.butlers-hotel.com

### **FURTHER AFIELD Four Seasons**

MINEXT CCCCC

Simmonscourt Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 665 4000 Fax 01 665 4099 Rooms 259

Luxurious Four Seasons successfully combines period-style elegance with contemporary comfort. Generously proportioned public spaces are opulently decorated with deep-pile rugs and rich furnishings. Bedrooms are large and lavish. Service is exceptional. The Ice Bar is a magnet for the fashionistas. www.fourseasons.com

### FURTHER AFIELD Jury's Hotel & The Towers

17日紀大学

Pembroke Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 660 5000 Fax 01 660 5540 Rooms 400

A modern hotel, popular with business travellers, visitors and local people, the Jury's is a short distance from the city centre. Clean bedrooms have all modern conveniences. Good facilities include a swimming pool, leisure and business centres, newsagents and private parking as well as two restaurants and two bars. www.jurysdoyle.com

### FURTHER AFIELD Portmarnock Hotel & Golf Links

Road map D3

Portmarnock, Co Dublin Tel 01 846 0611 Fax 01 846 2442 Rooms 98 Famous for their Irish whiskey, the Jameson family originally owned this house with a lovely beachside location. It is tastefully decorated, with bright public spaces. Bedrooms are excellently furnished, with views of the sea or the

18-hole championship golf course. There's also a spa. Close to Dublin Airport. www.portmarnock.com

### **FURTHER AFIELD Berkeley Court Hotel**

型目录

 $\mathbb{C}$ 

Landsdowne Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 660 1711 Fax 01 661 7238 Rooms 187

In the heart of the embassy belt, this well-located five-star hotel is convenient to the Royal Dublin Society and Landsdowne Road stadium. Beyond the unappealing exterior, the chandeliered lobby sets the tone for a plush ambience. Rooms are well appointed. There are two good restaurants. www.jurysdoyle.com

### SOUTHEAST IRELAND

### **ANNESTOWN Annestown House**

€(

Annestown, Co Waterford Tel 051 396 160 Fax 051 396 474 Rooms 5

Road map C5

This 1830s country guesthouse is wonderfully located overlooking the sea, on Waterford's "Copper Coast". Well furnished, it provides B&B facilities in an old-fashioned setting. Spacious bedrooms are decorated in a simple, traditional style and have lovely views. The library is well-stocked with antiquarian books, www.annestown.com

### **ARTHURSTOWN Glendine Country House**

€€

Arthurstown, Co Wexford Tel 051 389 258 Fax 051 389 677 Rooms 8

Road map D5

Home to the hospitable Crosbie family, this well-maintained 19th-century house is set amidst landscaped gardens and paddocks. Reasonably-priced bedrooms vary between old-fashioned and contemporary, though all have scenic views of the Barrow estuary. Good breakfasts are served by a friendly staff. **www.glendinehouse.com** 

### ASHFORD Ballyknocken House

大

Road map D4

A romantic 19th-century Victorian farmhouse, this long-established hotel is furnished in country-house style with period pieces. The on-site dining room features wholesome Irish cooking. Breakfasts are delicious. The location is ideal for walkers wishing to explore the Wicklow Mountains. www.ballyknocken.com

### **ATHY Coursetown House**

€€

(€)(€)

Stradbally Rd, Co Kildare Tel 059 863 1101 Fax 059 863 2740 Rooms 4

Ashford, Glenealy, Co Wicklow Tel 0404 44627 Fax 0404 44696 Rooms 7

Road map D4

This 200-year-old farmhouse is set in the centre of a 260-acre arable farm. Attractions include a superb natural history library and beautifully maintained gardens. Bedrooms vary in size but all are thoughtfully decorated in a country-house style. Delicious breakfasts feature pancakes and seasonal fruits.

### **AUGHRIM Clone House**

N X W

€€€

Aughrim, Co Wicklow Tel 0402 36121 Fax 0402 36029 Rooms 7

Road map D4

Dating from the early 19th century, this large house is set deep in the Wicklow Mountains. It's a tranquil retreat, surrounded by landscaped gardens, a stream and waterfall. The stylish bedrooms are a fusion of eclectic design and modern comfort. Owner and chef Carla is Italian and prepares traditional Tuscan dinners. www.clonehouse.com

# **BAGENALSTOWN Lorum Old Rectory**

**©©©** 

Road map D4

Built in 1863 of local cut granite, the old rectory lies at the foot of the Blackstairs Mountains. It's elegant and full of character, with wood fires and marble fireplaces. Imaginative home cooking, using home-grown and local organic produce. There's a croquet lawn here. Ideal for walks and cycle rides. Open March to November. www.lorum.com

### **BALLON Sherwood Park House**

€€

Kilbride, Co Carlow Tel 059 915 9117 Fax 059 915 9355 Rooms 5

Bagenalstown, Co Carlow Tel 059 977 5282 Fax 059 977 5455 Rooms 5

Road map D4

This imposing Georgian residence, set amid rolling parklands on its own estate, is close to the celebrated Altamount Gardens. It's a good country retreat with log fires, romantic bedrooms with brass and canopy beds and candlelit dinners. Delicious home cooking and delightful hosts make for a great experience. www.sherwoodparkhouse.ie

### **BALLYMACARBERRY Clonanav Farm Guesthouse**

**対** 

€€

Ballymacarbry, Co Waterford Tel 052 36141 Fax 052 36294 Rooms 10

Road map C5

Traditionally furnished, this three-star bungalow farmhouse and dry fly-fishing centre is situated on a working farm in the Nire valley. Rooms are en suite and there are log and peat fires. Savour the excellent Irish breakfast. Attractions include an on-site hard tennis court and wild brown trout fishing on river and stream. www.flyfishingireland.com

# **CALLAN Ballaghtobin House**

€€

Callan, Co Kilkenny **Tel** 056 772 5227 **Fax** 056 772 5712 **Rooms** 3

Road map C5

Home to the Gabbett family for 350 years, this ivy-clad period-style house is set on a sprawling working farm that produces wheat, blackcurrants and Christmas trees. The furnishings are tasteful and the large rooms appealing. On-site facilities feature hard tennis court as well as croquet lawn and clock golf. www.ballaghtobin.com

# **CAPPOQUIN Richmond House**

八大

**©©©**€

Cappoquin, Co Waterford Tel 058 54278 Fax 058 54988 Rooms 10

Road map C5

This delightful Georgian house is owned by the Deevy family, celebrated for its genuine warm hospitality. Set in peaceful parkland, it is charmingly decorated with antiques. Each of the bedrooms is a blend of Georgian splendour and modern comfort. Relish the excellent award-winning, country-house cooking, www.richmondhouse.net

# **CARLOW Barrowville Town House**

6

Kilkenny Rd, Co Carlow **Tel** 059 914 3324 **Fax** 059 914 1953 **Rooms** 7

Road map D4

Standing on its own mature grounds, this three-star listed Regency house is just a few minutes' walk from the town centre. It is immaculately maintained and well furnished with antiques, with an open fire in the lovely drawing room. Bedrooms vary in size, though all have good bathrooms. Superb breakfasts. www.barrowvillehouse.com

### CASTLEDERMOT Kilkea Lodge Farm

(€)(€)

Castledermot, Co Kildare Tel 059 914 5112 Fax 059 914 5112 Rooms 5

Road map D4

Set in 260 acres of rolling parkland, this attractive farmhouse has been in the same family since 1740. It's popular with race-goers, as the Curragh, Punchestown and Naas racecourses are all within easy reach. Warm hospitality with open fires. There's also an equestrian centre holding regular courses. Golf nearby. www.kilkealodgefarm.ie

### THE CURRAGH Martinstown House

**€€€** 

The Curragh, Co Kildare Tel 045 441 269 Fax 045 441 208 Rooms 4

Dungarvan, Co Waterford Tel 051 291 010 Fax 051 291 011 Rooms 4

Ballinamuck. Co Waterford Tel 058 45594 Fax 058 45550 Rooms 6

Road map D4

This charming Gothic-style cottage *omé*, idyllically set on a farm in mature woodland and gardens, offers old-fashioned hospitality and unassuming elegance. Each bedroom has its own character and fresh flowers. Hens, goats, sheep and horses create a delightful pastoral setting. www.martinstownhouse.com

### **DUNGARVAN** An Bohreen

Road map C5

Situated at the foothills of the Comeragh Mountains with views over Dungarvan Bay, this good-value modern guesthouse offers comfort and warm hospitality. Bedrooms are neat and traditionally furnished. The delicious awardwinning cooking is a real attraction. A short drive west of Waterford. Open March to October. www.anbohreen.com

### **DUNGARVAN Powersfield House**

刊大

This mock-Georgian house has been stylishly decorated with antiques and rich fabrics. The Powers are ebullient hosts, with a flair for creating bright and relaxing interiors as well as imaginative cooking. Delicious breakfasts and dinner can be arranged for residents. A cooking school is on the premises. www.powersfield.com

# **DUNGARVAN Clonea Strand Hotel**

⑩ 計 総 ★ ∀

Dungarvan, Co Waterford Tel 058 4555 Fax 058 42880 Rooms 60

Road map C5

Road map C5

The main attraction of this large, modern three-star resort hotel is its location beside a lovely two-mile sandy beach. Bedrooms are en suite; most have sea views. Leisure facilities include a 20-metre (65-ft) indoor heated pool and bowling alley. Good facilities for children makes it ideal for families. Live Irish music in the bar. www.clonea.com

# **DUNLAVIN Rathsallagh House**

€€€€ 刊大

Road map D4

Dunlavin, Co Wicklow Tel 045 403 112 Fax 045 403 343 Rooms 31 Just one hour's drive from Dublin, this creeper-clad rambling country house is set in 530 acres of peaceful parkland

It is comfortably furnished with open fires and has a relaxed atmosphere. Service is professional and courteous, and the breakfast is one of the best in Ireland. Excellent restaurant and lovely gardens, www.rathsallagh.com

# **DUNMORE EAST Church Villa** Dunmore East, Co Waterford Tel 051 383 390 Fax 051 383 023 Rooms 6

Road map D5

This long-established, attractive Victorian town house, in the centre of the picturesque fishing village of Dunmore East, offers excellent-value B&B accommodation. Bedrooms are bright and neat, and the owners friendly. Good home baking and breakfasts can be enjoyed. Ideal for the diet-conscious. www.churchvilla.com

# **ENNISCORTHY Salville House**

国刊

(€)(€)

Enniscorthy, Co Wexford Tel 054 35252 Fax 054 35252 Rooms 5

Road map D5

Standing on a hilltop overlooking the River Slaney, this 19th-century house offers comfort and friendly hospitality. Ample rooms with large windows provide lovely views over the wooded countryside. Dinner available by prior arrangement in a gracious dining room. Award-winning country cooking, www.salvillehouse.com

# **ENNISCORTHY Ballinkeele House**

€€€

Enniscorthy, Co Wexford Tel 053 38105 Fax 053 38468 Rooms 5

Road map D5

This elegant manor house has been the ancestral home of the Maher family since 1840. It is set in 350 acres of mature parkland, game-filled woods, ponds and lakes. Rooms are well proportioned and the original furniture very well preserved. The place is known for its good home cooking as well as painting courses. www.ballinkeele.com

# FERRYCARRIG Ferrycarrig Hotel

● 1 金 大 マ

(F)(F)(F)

Ferrycarrig, Co Wexford Tel 053 20999 Fax 053 20982 Rooms 102

Road map D5

With sweeping vistas across the River Slaney, this modern hotel is furnished in a smart, contemporary style. A calm and airy atmosphere prevails. Staff are very friendly and competent. Well-equipped bedrooms offer lovely views. There's an excellent health and fitness club, with a 20-metre (65-ft) pool. www.ferrycarrighotel.com

# **GLENDALOUGH Derrymore House**

(€)(€)

Lake Rd. Co Wicklow Tel 0404 45493 Fax 0404 45517 Rooms 4

Road map D4

In the heart of Wicklow, this country house is set in a mountain woodland, overlooking the beautiful lakes of Glendalough. Bedrooms are en suite. Experience warm hospitality and good breakfasts in peaceful surroundings. Local activities include walks, horse-riding and fishing. Open April to October. http://homepage.eircom.net/~derrymore/

### **GOREY Marlfield House**

Road map D5

刊末

Gorey, Co Wexford Tel 055 21124 Fax 055 21572 Rooms 20

€€€€

One of Ireland's leading country houses, this Regency-style mansion is luxuriously furnished with antiques, fine art, crystal chandeliers and marble fireplaces. Secluded amid woodland and beautifully maintained gardens, it is a haven of tranquility. Opulent bedrooms feature fresh flowers and marble bathrooms. www.marlfieldhouse.com

Key to Price Guide see p294 Key to Symbols see back cover flap

### **INISTIOGE** Cullintra House

€ €

The Rower, Co Kilkenny Tel 051 423 614 Rooms 6

Road map D5

An attractive 200-year-old farmhouse, set in beautiful woods and farmland, this is a cosy place with log fires. The host is an accomplished cook and offers leisurely breakfasts until noon. Tasty food, using local produce, is served for candlelit dinners. The farm is an animal and bird sanctuary. www.indigo.ie

### KILKENNY Butler House

€€€

16 Patrick St. Co Kilkenny Tel 056 776 5707 Fax 056 776 5626 Rooms 13

Road map C4

This gracious Georgian town house is an integral part of the Kilkenny Castle estate. Decor is contemporary, with period features such as marble fireplaces and plasterwork ceilings. Bedrooms are large and relatively snug. Excellent breakfasts in the refurbished stables of the castle, which now houses the Kilkenny Design Centre. www.butler.ie

### KILKENNY Lacken House and Restaurant

Dublin Rd. Co Kilkenny Tel 056 776 1085 Fax 056 776 2435 Rooms 10

Road map C5

A short walk from the city centre, this Victorian house was originally built as a dower house in 1847 and has been extensively refurbished. With the warm and personal service of a guesthouse, it offers hotel facilities, including excellent breakfasts. The restaurant is highly regarded and has won several accolades. www.lackenhouse.ie

### MACREDDIN The BrookLodge Hotel & Well Spa

國 11 無 大 🍟

€€€€

Macreddin Village, Co Wicklow Tel 0402 36444 Fax 0402 36580 Rooms 54

Road map D4

Built on the site of a deserted village in a Wicklow valley, this new hotel complex is decorated in a contemporary, yet elegant country-house style with open fires and large airy spaces. Actons Country Pub serves excellent pints from its own microbrewery. There's also a collection of shops on the grounds. www.brooklodge.com

### MAYNOOTH Moyglare Manor

€€€€

Maynooth, Co Kildare Tel 01 628 6351 Fax 01 628 5405 Rooms 17

Road map D4

Only 30 km (18 miles) from Dublin, this charming Georgian house is surrounded by beautiful pastures. Antiques and rich furnishings have been used to a lavish effect. Bedrooms are individually styled, all with views of the rolling countryside. Candlelit dining rooms offer fine dining in a great romantic setting. www.moyglaremanor.ie

# **RATHNEW Hunter's Hotel**

Rathnew, Co Wicklow Tel 0404 40106 Fax 0404 40338 Rooms 16

Road map D4

A rambling, old coaching inn, now in the fifth generation of the Hunter family, Hunter's offers old-fashioned comfort and charm. Surrounded by picturesque gardens along the banks of the river and decorated with chintzy furnishings, it exudes a traditional and relaxing atmosphere. Simple country-house cooking. www.hunters.ie

### **RATHNEW Tinakilly Country House & Restaurant**

11 大ツ

Rathnew, Co Wicklow Tel 0404 69274 Fax 0404 67806 Rooms 51

Road map D4

This classical Victorian-Italianate mansion, 48 km (30 miles) south of Dublin, was built by Captain Halpin, who laid the first telegraph cable linking Europe and America. Standing on lovely Victorian gardens, the house is furnished with elegant antiques. Bedrooms decorated in period style feature modern comforts. Fine dining, www.tinakilly.ie

### ROSSLARE Kelly's Resort Hotel

國門無大學

Rosslare, Co Wexford Tel 053 32114 Fax 053 32222 Rooms 123

Road map D5

A reliable, family-run hotel overlooking an expansive sandy beach, Kelly's is cosy if lacking in character. It boasts an extensive collection of art. Many of the bedrooms have views; some have balconies. Its vast choice of leisure facilities, two reputed restaurants and a supervised creche make it an ideal location for families. www.kellys.ie

### STRAFFAN Kildare Hotel & Country Club

Straffan, Co Kildare Tel 01 601 7200 Fax 01 601 7299 Rooms 69

Road map D4

Originally built in the 17th century, the Kildare has since been luxuriously renovated to become a five-star hotel, with an air of French elegance. Well-furnished rooms have been styled individually. The restaurants are excellent. Facilities include two 18-hole championship golf courses, health spa, tennis, river fishing and coarse fishing. www.kclub.ie

# **THOMASTOWN Ballyduff House**

国文

(€)(€)

Thomastown, Co Kilkenny Tel 056 775 8488 Rooms 3

Road map D5

**€€€** 

Overlooking the River Nore, this charming 18th-century manor house is a haven of tranquility, done up in a countryhouse style with antiques. Bedrooms are large, with pretty views over the river or garden. Beautiful walks as well as salmon and trout fishing. Woodstock Gardens are nearby. Open March to October. ballydhouse@eircom.net

# **THOMASTOWN Mount Juliet Conrad**

TI 金 末 W

Thomastown, Co Kilkenny Tel 056 777 3010 Fax 056 777 3019 Rooms 32

Road map D5

Set in 1,500 acres of rolling parkland, rich pastures and formal gardens, this is one of Ireland's finest Georgian houses and most luxurious hotels. Rich furnishings complement plasterwork ceilings and Adam fireplaces. Bedrooms are individually styled. Facilities include an 18-hole golf course, archery and spa. www.mountjuliet.com

# WATERFORD Coast Townhouse

四只

Upper Branch Rd, Co Waterford Tel 051 393 646 Fax 051 393 647 Rooms 4

This town house offers very chic and smartly furnished accommodation, with a contemporary feel and scenic views. The antique blends with the modern, creating a romantic ambience. Bedrooms are sizeable and uniquely designed. The glass-walled bathrooms have become quite a talking point! The Coast restaurant is excellent, www.coast.ie

# **WATERFORD Foxmount Country House**

國大

Passage East Rd, off Dunmore Rd, Co Waterford Tel 051 874 308 Fax 051 854 906 Rooms 5

Road map D5

A 15-minute drive from Waterford city, Foxmount is an imposing, yet peaceful and welcoming, 18th-century country house and working dairy farm. Appealing bedrooms overlook the valley on one side of the house, the farmyard on the other. The Kent family are warm hosts. Delicious home baking. www.foxmountcountryhouse.com

### WATERFORD Waterford Castle

THAT CCCC

The Island, Ballinakill, Co Waterford Tel 051 878 203 Fax 051 879 316 Rooms 19

Dating from the 15th century, this luxury hotel lies on a private 310-acre island, 5 km (3 miles) outside Waterford city. Reached by a private car ferry, the Castle mixes old-world elegance with modern comfort. Good fine-dining choices as well as an 18-hole golf course and tennis. Non-smoking property. www.waterfordcastle.com

# WEXFORD McMenamin's Townhouse

和大

(€)(€)

3 Auburn Terrace, Redmond Rd, Co Wexford Tel 053 46442 Fax 053 46442 Rooms 6

Road map D5

This late-Victorian redbrick B&B is highly rated and within walking distance of the town centre and only 15 minutes' drive from the Rosslare ferry. Nicely decorated bedrooms are equipped with modern facilities. Some rooms have fourposter beds. Friendly and helpful hosts. www.wexford-bedandbreakfast.com

### **WEXFORD Newbay Country House**

计大

€€€

Newbay, Co Wexford Tel 053 42779 Fax 053 46318 Rooms 11

Road map D5

This beautiful late-Georgian house is set amidst gardens and parklands, only 3 km (2 miles) from Wexford town. A home-away-from-home atmosphere is created by friendly hosts, interesting antiques, open fires and warmly coloured rooms. Most bedrooms feature four-poster beds, and all have lovely views. Superb cooking. www.newbayhouse.com

# CORK AND KERRY

### **BALTIMORE Baltimore Bay Guest House**

€€

The Waterfront, Co Cork Tel 028 20600 Fax 028 20495 Rooms 8

**BALTIMORE Baltimore Harbour Hotel & Leisure Centre** Baltimore, Co Cork Tel 028 20361 Fax 028 20466 Rooms 62

Road map B6

This questhouse, overlooking the harbour, is run by Youen Jacob, the younger son of celebrated restauranteur Youen. Airy bedrooms provide modern facilities and some have views over the sea and Sherkin Island. Well-chosen antiques add character to this contemporary house. There's a great restaurant on site. www.chezyouen.com

№ 大学

Road map 86

€€€

A few minutes' walk from the village, with a location overlooking the harbour, this three-star hotel is bright with modern furnishings. Rooms are well equipped, and most of them enjoy sea views. On-site health and leisure centre as well as massage and reflexology treatments. There's a fine restaurant too. www.baltimoreharbourhotel.ie

# **BANDON Glebe Country House**

Road map 86

Ballinadee, Co Cork Tel 021 477 8294 Fax 021 477 8456 Rooms 4 A 10-minute drive from Bandon, this attractive Georgian rectory is beautifully furnished. Classically proportioned

rooms have a stylish decor. Four-course communal candlelit dinner available, if booked before noon. The gardens here are quite lovely. Self-catering accommodation is available in Coach House. http://indigo.ie/~glebehse

# **BANTRY Ballylickey Manor House**

Bantry Bay, Co Cork Tel 027 50071 Fax 027 50124 Rooms 14

Road map B6

Built over 300 years ago by Lord Kenmare as a shooting lodge, this delightful manor stands in award-winning gardens and parkland. It has a romantic setting, surrounded by mountains and moorland. The furnishings are luxurious and bedrooms cosy. Delicious food. Outdoor heated swimming pool. www.ballylickeymanorhouse.com

# **BANTRY Bantry House**

Bantry, Co Cork Tel 027 50047 Fax 027 50795 Rooms 8

Road map 86

An 18th-century stately home, Bantry House has a wonderful collection of period furniture. The current owner is the ninth generation of his family to live in this grand home. Restful bedrooms look out over the pretty gardens. Climb the monumental stone "Stairway to the Sky" for stunning views. Open March to October. www.bantryhouse.ie

# **CAHERDANIEL** Iskeroon

€€€ Road map A6

€€€

Bunavalla, Co Kerry Tel 066 947 5119 Fax 066 947 5488 Rooms 3

Overlooking the stunning Derrynane harbour, this beautiful old house was originally built by the Earl of Dunraven in 1936. The design-conscious Hare family have extensively renovated it with warm colours and natural stone floors. Semitropical gardens surround the house and sweep down to the sea. www.iskeroon.com

# **CARAGH LAKE Carrig Country House**

Caragh Lake, Co Kerry Tel 066 976 9100 Fax 066 976 9166 Rooms 16

Set in woodland and timeless gardens full of rare plants close to the water's edge, this extended family-run Victorian house exudes a relaxed atmosphere. There are open fires and antiques, and bedrooms are large and snug. Lakeside restaurant features trout and Kerry lamb. Boats are available for fishing. www.carrighouse.com

Key to Price Guide see p294 Key to Symbols see back cover flap

### CARAGH LAKE Caragh Lodge

€€€€

Caragh Lake, Co Kerry Tel 066 976 9115 Fax 066 976 9316 Rooms 15

Road map A5

Originally a fishing lodge, this mid-Victorian house is set in a beautiful award-winning garden. It borders the lake and looks out towards Ireland's highest mountains. All rooms are furnished with antique furniture. Enjoy the delicious cooking. Boating, swimming, salmon and trout fishing offered. Open mid-April to October. www.caraghlodge.com

# **CASTLELYONS Ballyvolane House**

Castlelyons, Co Cork Tel 025 36349 Fax 025 36781 Rooms 6

Road map C5

Surrounded by extensive gardens and parkland, this 1728 house was remodelled in the Italianate style in the 1800s, as seen in the classical pillared hall, with a baby grand piano. There are open fires and elegant furnishings. Large bedrooms feature period furniture. Trout lake and salmon fishing are arranged. www.ballyvolanehouse.ie

# CASTLETOWNSHEND Bow Hall

國大

Main St. Co Cork Tel 028 36114 Rooms 3 Road map B6 In the heart of the picturesque village of Castletownshend stands Bow Hall, a 17th-century house offering stylish accommodation and warm service. Overlooking well-maintained gardens, it is decorated in Shaker style, with interesting collectables. Dinner is served on request for residents. Non-smoking house. **dvickbowhall@eircom.net** 

# CLONAKILTY O'Donovan's Hotel

河 11 大

€€

Clonakilty, Co Cork Tel 023 33250 Fax 023 33883 Rooms 26

Road map B6

This traditional hotel, in the centre of the vibrant market town, is owned by the fifth generation of the O'Donovan family. Though old-fashioned, with a modest decor, it has a friendly ambience. There's a fully licensed restaurant as well as a bar featuring live music. Sheltered coves and sandy beaches are close by. www.odonovanshotel.com

# **CLOYNE Ballymaloe House**

田大

€€€€ Road map C6

Shanagarrry, Co Cork Tel 021 465 2531 Fax 021 465 2021 Rooms 34 Perhaps Ireland's best-known country house, restaurant and cookery school, the elegantly furnished Ballymaloe

House is surrounded by 400 acres of farmland and gardens. Bedrooms are tastefully decorated. The restaurant is nationally renowned. Professional and courteous staff. There's a good craft shop on site. www.ballymaloe.ie

# **CORK Garnish House**

€€ Road map C5

Western Rd, Co Cork Tel 021 427 5111 Fax 021 427 3872 Rooms 14

Anderson's Quay, Co Cork Tel 021 427 6444 Fax 021 427 6144 Rooms 133

Five minutes' walk from the city centre, Garnish House is a comfortable guesthouse, furnished in warm colours. Hot home-baked scones with tea and coffee on arrival reflects the gracious hospitality of the Lucey family. Bedrooms, all en suite, some with Jacuzzis, include modern facilities. B&B only. www.garnish.ie

### CORK Jury's Cork Inn

11 大

Road map C5

This three-star hotel, with a fixed-price room rate, is located in the heart of Cork city and overlooking the River Lee. Reasonably priced bedrooms are en suite with regular modern facilities and can accommodate up to two adults and two children. Room service is not available. Breakfast is an extra charge. www.jurysdoyle.com

### **CORK Lancaster Lodge**

Lancaster Quay, Western Rd, Co Cork Tel 021 425 1125 Fax 021 425 1126 Rooms 39

Road map C5

This modern, purpose-built four-storey guesthouse is located within five minutes' walk of the city centre. The interior is contemporary in design, with light wood furnishings. Bedrooms are spacious and well appointed. Bathrooms are intelligently designed. Excellent breakfasts provided. www.lancasterlodge.com

# **CORK Great Southern Hotel**

砂川大ツ

€€€

Cork Airport, Co Cork Tel 021 494 7500 Fax 021 494 7501 Rooms 61

Road map C5

Conveniently located within walking distance of the terminal, this very successful four-star hotel is particularly peaceful, given its location. Bedrooms are well designed in a contemporary style. There's a 24-hour complimentary transfer coach as well as a small fitness suite. Courteous and helpful staff. www.gshotels.com

# **CORK Maryborough House Hotel**

№ 11 総 大 🗸

€€€€

Maryborough Hill, Douglas, Co Cork Tel 021 436 5555 Fax 021 436 5662 Rooms 79

Road map C5 The 18th-century core building stands at the heart of this hotel, which has been extended significantly. There are 24

acres of ornate gardens and woodland. Bedrooms are large and contemporary, with well-designed bathrooms. Only 10 minutes' drive from the airport and the city centre. Very good leisure facilities. www.maryborough.com

# **CORK Hayfield Manor Hotel**

MERT CCCC

Perrott Ave, College Rd, Co Cork Tel 021 484 5900 Fax 021 431 6839 Rooms 88

Road map C5

A member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World, this delightful place is set amid gardens. Though opened in 1996, it has the feel of a fine period house. Elegant furnishings are of a high standard. Generously proportioned and thoughtfully designed bedrooms come with good bathrooms. Excellent leisure facilities. www.hayfieldmanor.ie

### COURTMACSHERRY Travara Lodge

H

€€

Courtmacsherry, Co Cork Tel 023 46493 Rooms 6

This early-Victorian terraced building, in a cheerful seaside village, overlooks Courtmacsherry Bay. A former captain's house, then a gentleman's residence, it is now a guesthouse with attractive, cosy furnishings. Simple and tasty food uses fresh local produce. Staff are friendly and helpful.

# **DINGLE The Captain's House**

The Mall, Co Kerry Tel 066 915 1531 Fax 066 915 1079 Rooms 8

Road map A5

So called because the host was a former captain in the merchant navy, this hotel is approached via a small footbridge over the River Mall and a pretty garden. The interior comprises antiques and nauticalia, collected by Captain Jim Milhench on his travels. Open turf fire and a warren of cosy rooms create a warm ambience. www.captainsdingle.com

### **DINGLE Greenmount House**

€€

Upper John St. Co Kerry Tel 066 915 1414 Fax 066 915 1974 Rooms 12

Road map A5

Five minutes' walk from the centre of Dingle, this modern B&B offers lovely accommodation and wonderful views of the town and harbour. Many of the well-equipped bedrooms are junior suites with sitting rooms and balconies. Decor features floral furnishings and wooden floors. Award-winning breakfasts. www.greenmount-house.com

# **DINGLE Dingle Skellig Hotel**

図り金えば

€€€

With a modest exterior, this four-star hotel enjoys a wonderful seaside location on the fringes of Dingle. It is particularly ideal for families, with neat and adequately furnished bedrooms. The airy interiors make the most of the sea views. Excellent leisure facilities are available along with the Peninsula Spa. www.dingleskellig.com

# **DINGLE Emlagh House**

€€€

Road map A5

Dingle, Co Kerry Tel 066 915 2345 Fax 066 915 2369 Rooms 10

Dingle, Co Kerry Tel 066 915 0200 Fax 066 915 1501 Rooms 110

Road map A5

A few minutes' walk from the heart of Dingle, this luxurious guesthouse is set in peaceful landscaped gardens. It is furnished in a tasteful country-house style with Irish art, though a contemporary feel prevails. Bedrooms are cosy, ample and decorated with flowers. Most of them have harbour views. www.emlaghhouse.com

### DINGLE PENINSULA Gorman's Clifftop House & Restaurant

11 7

Glaise Bheag, Ballydavid, Co Kerry Tel 066 915 5162 Fax 066 915 5003 Rooms 9

Road map A5

This questhouse is beautifully located in the Gaeltacht area of Slea Head drive, overlooking the Atlantic. Open log fires, pottery lamps and locally handmade tapestries create a relaxed feel. Bedrooms are furnished in handmade waxed pine and natural fabrics. Friendly hosts. Superb breakfasts. www.gormans-clifftophouse.com

# **FARRAN Farran House**

€€€

Farran, Co Cork Tel 021 733 1215 Fax 021 733 1450 Rooms 4

Road map B6

This elegant 18th-century manor house is set in the rolling hills of the Lee Valley, only 16 km (10 miles) from Cork city and airport. Surrounded by mature beech woodland and landscaped gardens, it has been sensitively restored with a contemporary touch, yet retains its original charm. Open April to October. www.farranhouse.com

### **GOLEEN Fortview House**

Gurtyowen, Toormore, Co Cork Tel 028 35324 Rooms 5

Road map 86

Situated on a working farm, this farmhouse is elegantly furnished with country pine. Bedrooms feature antiques and cast-iron and brass beds. Help with milking the cows, or stroll across the grounds. Generous breakfasts. Dinner for quests is by arrangement. Convenient self-catering cottages available for hire. www.fortviewhousegoleen.com

### **INNISHANNON Innishannon House Hotel**

m #

€€€

Co Cork Tel 021 477 5121 Fax 021 477 5609 Rooms 25

This 1720 house, set in four acres of parkland and riverside gardens, has been completely refurbished in country house style. Romantically positioned, overlooking the River Bandon, the rooms have an old-world atmosphere. Bedrooms are spacious and nicely decorated. The restaurant has views of the gardens. www.innishannon-hotel.ie

### KANTURK Assolas Country House Kanturk, Co Cork Tel 029 50015 Fax 029 50795 Rooms 9

€€€

Road map 85

This elegant creeper-clad 17th-century manor house is an oasis of calm, surrounded by mature prize-winning gardens and parkland that sweep down to the river. Award-winning cuisine is served in a gracious dining room with white linen, antiques and deep-red walls. Activities feature lawn tennis, croquet, boating and fishing. www.assolas.com

### €)€ KENMARE Hawthorn House

Shelbourne St, Co Kerry Tel 064 41035 Fax 064 41932 Rooms 8

Road map 85

Modestly decorated, yet immaculately kept, this family-run B&B is welcoming and restful. Generous hospitality can be expected. En suite bedrooms are cheerfully painted and furnished in pine. Mary O'Brien, the lively and warmhearted host, prepares a lovely breakfast. www.hawthornhousekenmare.com

# KENMARE Park Hotel Kenmare

Kenmare, Co Kerry Tel 064 41200 Fax 064 41402 Rooms 46

In a stunning setting overlooking the gardens to Kenmare Bay, this 1897 hotel is one of Ireland's finest. The luxurious style and antique furnishings add to the plush ambience. Bedrooms are individually decorated. There's a new worldclass destination spa and an 18-hole golf course on site. Exceptional service. www.parkkenmare.com

# KENMARE Sheen Falls Lodge

〒 | ☆ | ☆ | ▼ €€€€€

Kenmare, Co Kerry Tel 064 41600 Fax 064 41386 Rooms 66

Across the river from town, this five-star waterside hotel set in 300 acres, has garnered a reputation as one of the best in the country, since it opened in 1991. Lavishly decorated, the classic and modern furnishings create a grand yet restful ambience. There's an equestrian centre as well as salmon fishing on site. www.sheenfallslodge.ie

Key to Price Guide see p294 Key to Symbols see back cover flap

### KILLARNEY Earls Court House

和大

€€

Woodlawn Junction, Muckross Rd, Co Kerry Tel 064 34009 Fax 064 34366 Rooms 24

Road map B5

A five-minute walk from the heart of Killarney, this purpose-built award-winning guesthouse is superbly maintained. Open fire, antiques, tasteful furnishings and fresh flowers create a relaxed atmosphere. Neat bedrooms are generously proportioned. Excellent breakfast is served. www.killarney-earlscourt.ie

### KILLARNEY Hotel Dunloe Castle

**到**11 毫 ★ ♥

€€€

Killarney, Co Kerry Tel 064 44111 Fax 964 44583 Rooms 110

Road map B5

This modern hotel stands in lovely subtropical gardens, with its award-winning collection of rare plants and flowers, by the ruins of the 13th-century castle. Rooms are large and well appointed. Facilities feature an on-site equestrian centre, indoor tennis courts and fishing on the River Luane. Open May to September. www.killarneyhotels.ie

### KILLARNEY Hotel Europe

THE X T

Killarney, Co Kerry Tel 064 71300 Fax 064 32118 Rooms 206

Road map 85

**€€€** 

A huge five-star resort hotel with stunning views of the Lakes of Killarney and the nearby mountains, Hotel Europe is excellently maintained. It has large open rooms and elegant furnishings. Bedrooms, too, are well-proportioned and those on the lakeside enjoy wonderful views. Several golf clubs adjacent to the hotel. www.killarneyhotels.ie

### KILLARNEY Killarney Royal Hotel

College St, Co Kerry Tel 064 31853 Fax 064 34001 Rooms 29

Road map 85

Beautifully furnished in a period style, this family-run hotel is a short stroll from the centre of Killarney. Bedrooms are individually decorated to the highest standard, each boasting marble bathrooms and sitting areas. Welcoming and restful atmosphere. Staff are personable and most helpful. www.killarneyroyal.ie

### KINSALE Longquay House

オ

€€

Kinsale, Co Cork Tel 021 477 4563 Fax 021 477 4563 Rooms 7

Road map B6

This three-storey Georgian town house, overlooking the inner harbour and marina, is just a minute's walk to the town centre. Airy en suite bedrooms are neatly decorated. Breakfast includes poached smoked haddock and homemade brown bread. Sea angling trips with local skippers can be arranged. **www.longquayhousekinsale.com** 

# KINSALE Old Presbytery

T

**©© Road map** B6

43 Cork St, Co Cork Tel 021 477 2027 Fax 021 477 2166 Rooms 6

actful and acre

High-quality accommodation is provided at this charming Georgian guesthouse. The atmosphere is restful and oozes character. Pretty bedrooms have antique brass beds and simple pine country furniture. Some rooms have a Jacuzzi or balcony. Breakfasts are a treat. The penthouse suite sleeps up to five guests. **www.oldpres.com** 

# KINSALE Blindgate House

€€€

Blindgate, Co Cork **Tel** 021 477 7858 **Fax** 021 477 7868 **Rooms** 11

11 Pearse St, Co Cork Tel 021 477 4075 Fax 021 477 4296 Rooms 17

Road map 86

Set in its own gardens, this purpose-built house boasts inspiring interiors and a bright and airy atmosphere. Excellent breakfasts include fresh juices, farmhouse yogurts, cheeses and fresh fish as well as the full Irish. Contemporary in style, the en suite bedrooms are uncluttered and well equipped. B&B only. www.blindgatehouse.com

# KINSALE Old Bank House

.

**©©©® Road map** B6

Situated right in the centre of town, this used to be a working branch of the Munster and Leinster Bank. Now it is a well-run guesthouse, offering excellent accommodation. Bedrooms are spacious and decorated in a country-house style with good bathrooms. Some enjoy picturesque views of the town. www.oldbankhousekinsale.com

# KINSALE Sovereign House

國文

€€€

Newman's Mall, Co Cork Tel 021 477 2850 Fax 021 477 4723 Rooms 4

Road map B6

This charming Queen Anne stone house, dating from 1706, retains its old-world character, while offering modern comforts. The interior is furnished with Jacobean furniture, paintings and richly coloured walls. There's a full games room. Bedrooms come with four-poster beds and en suite Victorian bathrooms. **www.sovereignhouse.com** 

# KINSALE The Harbour Lodge

€€€

Scilly, Co Cork Tel 021 477 2376 Fax 021 477 2685 Rooms 9

Road map B6

This four-star waterfront guesthouse provides well-maintained accommodation. Bedrooms are large and well furnished with quality bedding. Some have balconies with views of the harbour. Service is friendly and attentive. Very good breakfasts are served. There's a relaxing conservatory on the grounds. www.harbourlodge.com

# LISTOWEL Allo's Town House and Restaurant

T X

€€

41–43 Church St, Co Kerry Tel 068 22880 Fax 068 22803 Rooms 3

Road map B5

Just off the main square of the market town, this hotel combines modern comforts with old-world charm. Stylishly decorated bedrooms feature period furniture. Bathrooms are furnished in distinct Connemara marble. Friendly hosts. No breakfast is served, but there is a lovely on-site bar and bistro. **www.alloslistowel.com** 

# LISTOWEL Listowel Arms Hotel

でいた

€€

Listowel, Co Kerry Tel 068 21500 Fax 068 22524 Rooms 42

Road map B5

Situated in a quiet corner of the main square, this historic three-star hotel is renowned as the venue for the annual Listowel Writers' Week, held in June. Refurbished recently, it has added modern comforts, without losing any of its character. On-site restaurant serves traditional cuisine. www.listowelarms.com

# MALLOW Longueville House

MA

€€€€

Co Cork Tel 022 47156 Fax 022 47459 Rooms 20

Road map 85

Set in 500 acres of wooded estate in the heart of the Blackwater Valley, this historic Georgian mansion has classically proportioned rooms with plasterwork ceilings and sumptuous family antiques. There's an award-winning restaurant and a period conservatory. Beautiful walks. www.longuevillehouse.ie

### MIDLETON Barnabrow House

Barnabrow, Cloyne, Co Cork Tel 021 465 2534 Fax 021 465 2534 Rooms 21

Road map C6

Barnabrow is romantically set in rolling parkland, enjoying beautiful views over nearby Ballycotton Bay. A tranquil house, it is stylishly decorated and features African furniture. Bedrooms are generously proportioned; some are in restored buildings to the rear of the house. There's an on-site crafts shop, www.barnabrowhouse.je

# PARKNASILLA Great Southern Hotel

Parknasilla, Co Kerry Tel 064 45122 Fax 064 45323 Rooms 83

Road map A6

Surrounded by 300 acres of subtropical parkland, this Victorian hotel commands a stunning position overlooking Kenmare Bay. Elegant antiques, fine art and fresh flowers create a relaxed ambience. En suite bedrooms vary in size, though all are well equipped. There's a good seafood restaurant. www.greatsouthernhotels.com

### SCHULL Rock Cottage

Barnatonicane, Co Cork Tel 028 35538 Fax 028 35538 Rooms 3

Road map 86

This Georgian hunting lodge is set amongst lightly wooded paddocks, fields and heather-covered hills. A walk into the hills reveals scenic views of the nearby Dunmanus Bay. Stylish interiors are contemporary in design, with wonderful attention to detail. Immaculately maintained. Delicious breakfast and dinners. www.rockcottage.ie

### SKIBBEREEN West Cork Hotel

Ilen St, Co Cork Tel 028 21277 Fax 028 22333 Rooms 30

Road map B6

Built in 1900, West Cork Hotel has a wonderful location on the banks of the river. It was recently refurbished in a tasteful contemporary style. Self-sufficient bedrooms are equipped with modern facilities. Those at the back overlook the river. On-site restaurant and bar. www.westcorkhotel.com

# **SNEEM Tahilla Cove Country House**

田太

**€**(€)

Sneem, Co Kerry Tel 064 45204 Fax 064 45104 Rooms 9

Glanleam, Co Kerry Tel 066 947 6176 Fax 066 947 6108 Rooms 6

Road map A6

A friendly guesthouse spread over two houses and surrounded by mature oak forest and garden, which sweep down to the water's edge. Neatly furnished bedrooms vary, but all are en suite and most enjoy views of the mountains or the sea. The Waterhouse family is hospitable. Good country cooking. www.tahillacove.com

### VALENTIA ISLAND Glanleam House

(€)(€) Road man A5

Originally built in 1775 as a linen mill, this elegant house is today a gardener's dream, set on a beautiful estate, surrounded by spectacular subtropical gardens and woodland. A mixture of antiques and modern comforts, it has an extensive library and slate fireplaces. Dinner is by advance arrangement, www.glanleam.com

€€

€€

YOUGHAL Ballymakeigh House

# Killeagh, Co Cork Tel 024 95184 Fax 024 95370 Rooms 7

川大

Road map C5

Set in rich farmlands, this 18th-century creeper-clad farmhouse has won numerous awards for its warm hospitality and meticulously maintained accommodation. It is well-furnished inside with elegant antique pieces. Bedrooms are tastefully decorated. Its delightful host is a cookbook writer. www.ballymakeighhouse.com

### YOUGHAL Glenally House

Copperalley, Co Cork Tel 024 91623 Rooms 4

Road map C5

Located just outside the town, Glenally House wonderfully combines contemporary cool with classical period features. Each vibrantly coloured bedroom is large and uniquely furnished. Fresh flowers from the garden feature throughout. Dinner is by prior arrangement. Members of Slow Food Movement, www.glenally.com

# THE LOWER SHANNON

# ABBEYFEALE Fitzgerald's Farmhouse & Equestrian Centre

Mount Marian, Co Limerick Tel 068 31217 Fax 068 31558 Rooms 6

Road map B4

Situated on the Kerry/Limerick border, this is an ideal retreat for children. There's an animal sanctuary and riding centre, with sheep, goats, guinea fowl, hens and over 30 horses. Ride cross-country on the beach or enjoy a more leisurely trek. Delightful nature-trail. Friendly and very hospitable, with open fire. www.fitzgeraldsfarmhouse.com

### **ADARE Dunraven Arms**

極川金大型

€€€€ Road map B5

Adare, Co Limerick Tel 061 396 633 Fax 061 396 541 Rooms 86

Established in 1792, in one of Ireland's most picturesque villages, this inn has retained its atmosphere and character and grown into a luxurious country-house hotel. With its open fires, antique furniture and friendly staff, it is renowned for its exemplary Irish hospitality. Bedrooms are beautifully furnished. www.dunravenhotel.com

# ADARE Adare Manor Hotel & Golf Resort

MILETY CECE

Adare, Co Limerick Tel 061 396 566 Fax 061 396 124 Rooms 63

Road map B5

Set in 900 acres, on the banks of the River Maigue, this Neo-Gothic mansion dates from 1720 and was the former home of the Earls of Dunraven. High-ceilinged rooms with period features are luxuriously furnished and overlook formal gardens and an impressive golf-course. Elegant bedrooms and health spa. www.adaremanor.com

### ARDFINNAN Kilmaneen Farmhouse

€€

Newcastle, Co Tipperary Tel 052 36231 Fax 052 36231 Rooms 3

Road map C5

This 200-year-old award-winning farmhouse is situated on a working dairy farm in a garden setting. The hosts are pleasant and the ambience is relaxed. Good home cooking. Dinner by arrangement. Surrounded by the mountains and close to the River Suir, it makes an ideal base for a walking or fishing holiday, www.kilmaneen.com

# **BALLINDERRY Kylenoe House**

€€

Ballinderry, Nenagh, Co Tipperary Tel 067 22015 Fax 067 22275 Rooms 3

Road map C4

Close to Lough Derg, this 200-year-old stone house stands on farm and woodland. It is furnished in a country-house style with antiques and open fires, creating the ambience of a welcoming home and a peaceful retreat. Awardwinning breakfasts. Dinner available if requested. International horse breeders give equestrian lessons.

### **BALLYVAUGHAN Hylands Burren Hotel**

71 7

€ E E

Ballyvaughan, Co Clare Tel 065 707 7037 Fax 065 707 7131 Rooms 29

Road map B4

In the heart of Ballyvaughan village, this traditionally-styled family-run hotel dates from the 18th century. Bedrooms are neat and simple. Informal and cheerful atmosphere with turf fires and live Irish music in the bar. Food available all day. Its location, on the edge of the Burren, makes it a popular spot. www.hylandsburren.com

### **BANSHA Lismacue House**

€€€

Bansha, Co Tipperary Tel 062 54106 Fax 062 54055 Rooms 5

Road map C5

A member of the Hidden Ireland group, this classically proportioned Irish country house dates back to 1813. Set in 200 acres, it is approached by an avenue of lime trees. Ornate interiors with period furniture make it an elegant and peaceful retreat, within view of the Galtee Mountains. Trout fishing on the estate. www.lismacue.com

### **BORRISOKANE Ballycormac House**

€€

Aglish, Co Tipperary Tel 067 21129 Fax 067 21200 Rooms 11

Road map C4

This farmhouse has been converted into a restful hostelry, offering cosy accommodation with cottage-style bedrooms. Dining is informal and by reservation only. Good country cooking includes produce from the organic garden. Trail and cross country horse-riding is offered. www.ballyc.com

### **BUNRATTY Bunratty Castle Hotel**

№ 対 対 図

€€€

Bunratty, Co Clare Tel 061 478 700 Fax 061 364 891 Rooms 80

Road map B4

Just 8 km (5 miles) from Shannon Airport, this Georgian hotel is situated in its own grounds, opposite the historic Bunratty Castle and folk-park. Good-sized, modern bedrooms. Kathleen's Irish Pub & Restaurant, which serves lunch and dinner, frequently hosts traditional Irish music sessions. www.bunrattycastlehotel.com

# **CASHEL Legends Townhouse & Restaurant** Cashel, Co Tipperary Tel 062 61292 Rooms 7

Πż

(€)(€) Road man C5

Situated at the foot of the great Rock of Cashel, this town house has fine views from both the bedrooms and the dining room. Bedrooms are simply furnished with good bathrooms. Open fires add to the pleasing ambience. It provides a convenient base for exploring the surrounding sites. www.legendsguesthouse.com

### **CASHEL Cashel Palace Hotel**

利用大

€€€€

Main St, Co Tipperary Tel 062 62707 Fax 062 61521 Rooms 23

Originally a bishop's palace, this beautiful Queen Anne-style house, dating from 1730, is set in its own grounds in the centre of Cashel town. The large, elegant rooms overlook tranquil gardens to the rear and the famed Rock of Cashel. The Bishop's Buttery restaurant serves lunch and dinner. A peaceful retreat. www.cashel-palace.ie

€€

**CLONMEL Clonmel Arms Hotel** 11 大 Sarsfield St, Co Tipperary Tel 052 21233 Fax 052 21526 Rooms 31 Road map C5

Predictable but convenient, this family-run three-star country town hotel is centrally located. All bedrooms are en suite and neatly decorated. The restaurant and bars are popular with local clientele. The Paddock Bar hosts lively music sessions several evenings a week. Particularly helpful staff. www.clonmelarmshotel.com

# **CLONMEL Minella Hotel**

№ 対金オツ

 $\mathbb{E}\mathbb{E}$ 

Clonmel, Co Tipperary Tel 052 22388 Fax 052 24381 Rooms 70

Road map C5

Overlooking the River Suir, Minella Hotel has been gradually expanded from the original 1863 house. Great racing enthusiasts, the Nallens have carried this equine theme throughout the hotel, with stables nearby. Traditional Irish food is served. Leisure centre with swimming pool and outdoor hot tub. www.hotelminella.ie

# **COROFIN Fergus View**

Kilnaboy, Co Clare Tel 065 683 7606 Fax 065 683 7192 Rooms 6

Road map B4

This good-value guesthouse has small but nice bedrooms, furnished with information packs on the surrounding areas. Locally sourced and home-grown produce feature in Mary Kelleher's cooking. Prior booking required for dinner. Well-maintained garden stretches down to the River Fergus. Open Easter to October. www.fergusview.com

### **COROFIN Clifden House**

€€€

Corofin, Co Clare Tel 065 683 7692 Fax 065 683 7692 Rooms 4

Ennis, Co Clare Tel 065 682 1233 Fax 065 682 1233 Rooms 6

Road map B4

This early-Georgian house, on the shores of Lough Inchiquinn, has been restored by the Robson family in a stylish yet cosy manner. Excellent country cooking using organic produce from their own walled garden. The River Fergus and its lakes provide for trout and pike fishing. Boats are available for hire. www.clifdenhouse-countyclare.com

### **ENNIS Newpark House**

(€)(€) Road map B4

Within walking distance of the town, this historic house is surrounded by lovely old lime, beech and oak trees Peaceful and nicely decorated bedrooms vary in size, but are all convenient and en suite. The Barron family can give genealogical advice on tracing your family roots. www.newparkhouse.com

### **GLEN OF AHERLOW Aherlow House**

田景 €€€

Glen of Aherlow, Co Tipperary Tel 062 56153 Fax 062 56212 Rooms 29

Road map C5

Situated in the middle of a pine forest in the Glen of Aherlow Nature Park, this hotel offers good accommodation with views of the Galty Mountains. Forest walks and fishing are popular pursuits, while cycling and horse-riding are available close by. Well-equipped self-catering lodges with open fires are also available. www.aherlowhouse.ie

### **GLIN Gliln Castle**

Glin, Co Limerick Tel 068 34173 Fax 068 34364 Rooms 15

Road map 85

The Fitzgerald family, the hereditary knights of Glin, have resided in this magnificent castle since the 1780s. Its present owners, the 29th knight, Desmond, and his wife, have lavishly done up the interior of the castle. There's a superb collection of Irish antiques and fine art. Stunning formal and woodland gardens. www.glincastle.com

### KILKEE Stella Maris Hotel

Kilkee. Co Clare Tel 065 905 6455 Fax 065 906 0006 Rooms 20

Road map B4

Situated in the centre of the vibrant town of Kilkee, this family-run hotel is both relaxed and friendly. With open log fires, it provides a warm welcome on a winter's day and its coastal position makes it popular with summer visitors. Bedrooms are bright and airy. There is a restaurant on the premises. www.stellamarishotel.com

# KILMALLOCK Flemingstown House

计大

(F)(F)

Kilmallock, Co Limerick Tel 063 98093 Fax 063 98546 Rooms 5

Road map 85

This 250-year-old farmhouse is set on a working farm. The original house has been extended and now offers wellmaintained accommodation, warm hospitality and laid-back atmosphere. Breakfasts are a treat and include homemade bread and creamy butter from the farm. Dinner can also be arranged. www.flemingstown.com

# **LAHINCH Moy House**

€€€€

Lahinch, Co Clare Tel 065 708 2800 Fax 065 708 2500 Rooms 9

With its breathtaking sea views across Liscannor Bay, towards the Cliffs of Moher, this 1820s house is the area's most luxurious hotel, furnished with rugs, antiques and elegant fabrics. Well-appointed bedrooms overlook the sea. The 15 acres of grounds include a fruit orchard and an organic vegetable garden. www.moyhouse.com

### LIMERICK Woodfield House

刊大

€€ Road map B4

Ennis Rd, Co Limerick Tel 061 453 022 Fax 061 326 755 Rooms 25 This pleasant, three-star family run is traditional in style. Bedrooms are smartly coordinated and well-equipped with modern facilities. Located just outside Limerick en route to Ennis. The city centre and major sights are easily

### LIMERICK The Clarion Hotel

€€€

accessible. Woodies Steakhouse is a good restaurant on the premises. www.woodfieldhousehotel.com 刨 11 急 ★ '∀'

# Steamboat Quay, Dock Rd, Co Limerick Tel 061 444 100 Fax 061 444 101 Rooms 93

Overlooking the River Shannon, this modern 17-storey hotel is reputedly the tallest in Ireland. Clean-lined and contemporary in style, it uses modern colours and walnut panelling. Well-appointed bedrooms. The Sinergie restaurant has an excellent waterfront location. On-site health and fitness club. www.clarionhotellimerick.com

### LOOP HEAD Anvil Farm Guesthouse

月六

Kilbaha, Co Clare Tel 065 905 8018 Fax 065 905 8331 Rooms 5

Road map B4

This tastefully decorated cliff-top farmhouse is located on the beautifully unspoilt Loop Head. En suite bedrooms are cosy. It's an ideal base to explore the remote area, with dolphin-watching, walking, angling, diving, pony-trekking and bird-watching. Good home cooking. Open March to October. www.doonbeg-ireland.com

# **NENAGH Ashley Park House**

国大

€€

Ardcroney, Co Tipperary Tel 067 38223 Fax 067 38013 Rooms 5

Road map C4

This lovely 18th-century country house is set in beech woodland and gardens, on the shores of Lough Ourna Elegantly furnished, it exudes an air of old-fashioned charm and comfort. Bedrooms invariably have views of the lake and beyond to the Slieve Bloom Mountains, and boast period pieces and brass beds. www.ashleypark.com

# **NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS Carrygerry House**

11 ×

Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co Clare Tel 061 360 500 Fax 061 360 700 Rooms 11

Road map B4

Only 10 minutes from Shannon Airport, this late-18th-century house is set in a peaceful rural setting and overlooks the Shannon and Fergus estuaries. It is furnished in a relaxed country-house style, with open fires. Tasty farm breakfasts are served. There's a pleasant restaurant serving home cooking. www.carrygerryhouse.com

Key to Price Guide see p294 Key to Symbols see back cover flap

### NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS Dromoland Castle

THERT CECE

Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co Clare Tel 061 368 144 Fax 061 363 355 Rooms 100

Road map B4

A magnificent sister castle of Ashford in Mayo, this is one of Ireland's finest hotels. Its grand elegance, with lush furnishings, antiques and crystal chandeliers, is enhanced by the picture-postcard scenery of the surrounding estate. Bedrooms are luxurious. Just 13 km (8 miles) from Shannon Airport. www.dromoland.ie

### SHANNON Great Southern Hotel

阿川大切

Shannon Airport, Co Clare Tel 061 471 122 Fax 061 471 982 Rooms 115

Road map B4

This three-star hotel is within walking distance of the airport terminal building and offers decent accommodation. Bedrooms are pleasant and well equipped, some with views of the estuary. There's a small fitness suite as well as a restaurant serving Irish and Continental cuisine. Good business facilities provided. www.gshotels.com

### **THURLES Inch House**

刊法

€ €

Bouladuff, Co Tipperary Tel 0504 51348 Fax 0504 51754 Rooms 5

Road map C4

This stately Georgian house is set in 250 acres of rich farmland. Large, high-ceilinged rooms are nicely furnished. The William Morris-style drawing room has a beautiful plasterwork ceiling and stained-glass windows. There's an awardwinning restaurant on site. www.inchhouse.com

# THE WEST OF IRELAND

### **ACHILL ISLAND Bervie**

Keel, Co Mayo Tel 098 43114 Fax 098 43407 Rooms 14

Road map A3

Formerly a coastguard station, this low-lying beachside house has a wicker gate opening onto the sand. Warm hospitality and a turf fire await. Bedrooms are compact and en suite. Afternoon tea with freshly baked scones are a treat. Evening meals are served primarily for residents. www.bervieachill.com

### **ACHILL ISLAND Gray's Guest House** Dugort, Co Mayo Tel 098 43244 Rooms 14

國文

(€)(€) Road map A3

Comprising several houses in the small village of Dugort, this long-established guesthouse has been known for its warm hospitality since 1970. It is somewhat rambling, with different areas varying in decor. Bedrooms offer oldfashioned comfort. Lunch, afternoon tea and dinner served.

# ARAN ISLANDS An Dún Guest House

MA

€€

Inis Meain, Co Galway Tel 099 73047 Fax 099 73047 Rooms 4

Road map B4

This welcoming questhouse is located at the foot of Connor's Fort on Inismeain, the most traditional of the three Aran Islands. It is run by the Faherty family. En suite bedrooms have great views. There's a mini-spa offering aromatherapy massage. Activities include cliff walking and fishing. www.inismeainaccommodation.com

### **ARAN ISLANDS Kilmurvey House**

€€

Kilronan, Co Galway Tel 099 61218 Fax 099 61397 Rooms 12

Road map B4

Road map B4

On the west side of the island, at the foot of Dun Aonghasa, this 150-year-old stone house is close to the glorious beach of Kilmurvey Bay. En suite bedrooms have great views. The affable Mrs Joyce picks vegetables from the walled garden for residents' dinners, served during summer. Ideal base for cycling or walking, www.kilmurveyhouse.com

# ARAN ISLANDS Man of Aran Cottage Kilmurvey, Inishmore, Co Galway Tel 099 61301 Fax 099 61324 Rooms 3

€€

Renowned for its starring role in the film of the same name, this delightful cottage offers limited but good accommodation. Situated beside Kilmurvey beach, it is surrounded by wildflowers and a vegetable garden. Only one room is en suite. Open March to October. www.manofarancottage.com

# **BALLINA Teach Iorrais**

MA

€€

Geesala, Co Mayo Tel 097 86888 Fax 097 86855 Rooms 30

Road map 82

This functional but good-value hotel in the Gaeltacht area provides friendly service. Bedrooms are neat and pleasant with en suite bathrooms. The bar has some character, a welcoming fire in the hearth and serves light food during the day. Good fishing, cycling, golf and walking possibilities nearby. www.teachiorrais.com

# **BALLYCONNEELY Emlaghmore Lodge**

€€€

Ballyconneely, Co Galway Tel 095 23529 Fax 095 23860 Rooms 4

Road map A3

This small, secluded period fishing lodge, situated halfway between Roundstone and Ballyconneely, is furnished with antiques and family portraits. Uncluttered bedrooms enjoy beautiful views. Sail in the family's Galway Hooker or go fly-fishing for brown trout or salmon in the river running through the garden. www.emlaghmore.com

# **BOYLE Forest Park House**

Road map (3

€

Rockingham, Co Roscommon Tel 071 966 2227 Rooms 6

This guesthouse is nestled amongst the trees at the entrance to Lough Key Forest Park. Cosy bedrooms and friendly hosts. Full Irish breakfast with home-made brown bread served late. Dietary needs accommodated. Light snacks available. Drying room and bait fridges make it ideal for fisherfolk. http://homepage.eircom.net/~forestparkhse/

# CARRICK-ON-SHANNON Glencarne Country House

国光

Ardcarne, Co Roscommon Tel 071 966 7013 Fax 071 966 7013 Rooms 5

Road map (3

Situated on the Leitrim-Roscommon border, this award-winning Georgian guesthouse has a garden to the front and the farm to the rear. The interior is tastefully furnished with antiques. Bedrooms are en suite and spacious. Some have brass beds. Good home cooking using farm produce. Open March to October.

### **CASHEL BAY Zetland House**

EEEE

Cashel Bay, Co Galway Tel 095 31111 Fax 095 31117 Rooms 22

Road map A3

Originally built in the 19th century as a sporting lodge, this stylish country-house hotel is a quiet retreat. It commands an enviable position overlooking Cashel Bay and is surrounded by woodland gardens and flowering shrubs. Inside, peaceful rooms are furnished with antiques and exude an easy-going atmosphere. Superb cooking. www.zetland.com

# CASHEL BAY Cashel House

Cashel Bay, Co Galway Tel 095 31001 Fax 095 31077 Rooms 32

Road map A3

This renowned country house, set in sprawling gardens and woodland, enjoys excellent views of Cashel Bay. Previous guests included Charles de Gaulle and his wife. Patrons are attracted by the quiet comfort of the antique-furnished rooms, with their log fires and fresh flowers, and the excellent cooking. www.cashel-house-hotel.com

# CASTLEBAR Lynch Breaffy House Hotel & Spa

2011金オマ €EEE

Castlebar, Co Mayo Tel 094 902 2033 Fax 094 902 2276 Rooms 125

Road map B3

Situated on the outskirts of Castlebar town, this hotel dates back to 1890. Having undergone significant renovations in recent years, it has been substantially modernized, while retaining a flavour of an old country house. Bedrooms are neat and well appointed. Very good leisure facilities as well as health spa available. www.lynchhotels.com

### CASTLECOOTE Castlecoote House

€€€

Castlecoote, Co Roscommon Tel 0906 663 794 Fax 0906 663 936 Rooms 5

Road map C3

Surrounded by pastoral countryside and overlooking the River Suck, this fine Georgian house stands on the grounds of a medieval castle. Lavish interior comprises stucco ceilings, marble fireplaces and portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Delightful bedrooms. Games room, tennis courts and croquet on site. www.castlecootehouse.com

### **CASTLEREA Clonalis House**

€€€

Castlerea, Co Roscommon Tel 094 962 0014 Fax 094 962 0014 Rooms 4

Road map C3

Set in a 700-acre wooded estate, this impressive Victorian-Italianate mansion is the ancestral home of the O'Connors of Connacht, descendants of Ireland's last high kings. Rich in history, with a wonderful library, heirlooms include the famous Carolan's harp. Rooms are vast and well furnished. Country home cooking. www.clonalis.com

### **CLIFDEN Sea Mist House**

€€

Clifden, Co Galway Tel 095 21441 Rooms 4

Road map A3

This stone house, carefully renovated to include modern facilities, is a charming questhouse in the heart of Clifden. Stylish decor reflects the host's refined tastes. Bedrooms are well appointed and the conservatory overlooks a serene cottage garden, which provides fruit for the tasty breakfasts. www.connemara.net/seamist

### **CLIFDEN Dolphin Beach Country House**

刊大

€€€

Lower Sky Rd, Co Galway Tel 095 21204 Fax 095 22935 Rooms 9

Road map A3

This charming beachside house, with its own private cove, is bright and stylish, with a friendly atmosphere. Bedrooms are spacious, with antique furniture and crisp bed linen. Owners Clodagh and Sinead serve delicious home cooking in the dining room overlooking the bay, www.connemara.net/DolphinBeachHouse/

# **CLIFDEN The Quay House**

€€€

Beach Rd, Co Galway Tel 095 21369 Fax 095 21608 Rooms 14

Road map A3

Built on the quayside in 1820 for the harbour master, The Quay House is now the oldest building in Clifden. Seasoned hosts Paddy and Julia Foyle have an innate sense of wordly style, evident in the sumptuous and quirky rooms. Delicious breakfasts are served in the conservatory. www.thequayhouse.com

### **CONG Ashford Castle**

到日天世

€€€€€

Cong. Co Mayo Tel 094 954 6003 Fax 094 954 6260 Rooms 83

Ireland's most luxuriously grand castle hotel is romantically set in 350 acres of beautiful parkland, lakes and landscaped gardens. Dating back to the 13th century, its lavish interiors feature dark wood panelling, an armoury, fine art, antiques and beautiful fireplaces. Formal yet very peaceful atmosphere. www.ashford.ie

# **CROSSMOLINA Enniscoe House**

€€€€

Castlehill, near Crossmolina, Co Mayo Tel 096 31112 Fax 096 31773 Rooms 6

Road map B2

This fine Georgian house, set in magnificent grounds leading down to Lough Conn, is full of beautiful antiques and fine art. It has a relaxed, lived-in feel. Susan Kellet, the charming owner, is a direct descendant of the original family who arrived here in the 1660s. A gracious host, she provides simply delicious country cooking. www.enniscoe.com

# **GALWAY Devondell**

Road map B4

47 Devon Park, Lower Salthill, Co Galway Tel 091 528 306 Rooms 4 Located in a residential area, this small, modern guesthouse is unremarkable from the outside but promises genuine hospitality and very good accommodation. Berna Kelly is a warm host and an excellent housekeeper. Pretty bed-

rooms are thoughtfully furnished, with cast-iron and brass beds. Superb breakfasts. www.devondell.com

Key to Price Guide see p294 Key to Symbols see back cover flap

### **GALWAY Jurys Inn Galway**

位 田 大

€€€

€€€

Quay St, Co Galway Tel 091 566 444 Fax 091 568 415 Rooms 128

Road map B4

Situated beside the historic Spanish Arch, this centrally located three-star hotel is convenient for exploring the bustling heart of Galway. Geared towards the cost-conscious traveller, reasonably priced rooms are convenient, if basically decorated with functional, pine-coloured furniture. Breakfast is an extra. www.jurysdoyle.com

### **GALWAY Killeen House**

Bushy Park, Co Galway Tel 091 524 179 Fax 091 528 065 Rooms 6

Road map B4

Set amidst gardens sweeping down to Lough Corrib, this charming 1840 house reflects the host's love for antiques and flair for design. Each bedroom is decorated in a different style – Victorian, Edwardian, Regency and Art Nouveau - and furnished impressively with well-appointed bathrooms. Delicious breakfasts. www.killeenhousegalway.com

### **GALWAY Great Southern Hotel**

図り大マ  $\mathbb{E} \mathbb{E} \mathbb{E} \mathbb{E}$ 

Eyre Square, Co Galway Tel 091 564 041 Fax 091 566 704 Rooms 99

Road map B4

In the heart of Galway, this railway hotel was built in 1845 and has been sensitively modernized, without losing its sense of historic grandeur. The tasteful interior consists of mahogany and brass features and the rooms are as elegant. There is a new health spa, with interesting views of the city. www.gshotels.com

# GALWAY Radisson SAS Hotel & Spa Galway

例が金大学 €€€€

Lough Atalia Rd. Co Galway Tel 091 538 300 Fax 091 538 380 Rooms 217

Road map 84

This contemporary hotel, overlooking Lough Atalia, is a five-minute walk to the city centre. The decor is appealing and the ambience restful. Bedrooms are designed in three distinct styles: Scandinavian, maritime or classic. All are equipped with good facilities. Marinas restaurant serves international cuisine. www.galway.radissonsas.com

### INISHBOFIN ISLAND Doonmore Hotel

Inishbofin Island, Co Galway Tel 095 45804 Fax 095 45804 Rooms 20

Road map A3

Situated overlooking the entrance to the island's peaceful harbour, this traditional family-run hotel is an ideal base for exploring the Inishbofin Island. The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and specializes in locally-caught seafood. The welcoming bar with open fire is popular with traditional musicians. www.doonmorehotel.com

# KNOCKRANNY Knockranny House Hotel Knockranny, Co Mayo Tel 098 28600 Fax 098 28611 Rooms 53

№ 11 金 大 🖤

€€€€ Road map B3

Opened in 1997, this four-star hotel is approached through secluded and rapidly maturing gardens. It is built in a Victorian style and overlooks the town of Westport. Log fires, warm colour schemes and antique furniture enhance the inviting ambience. Contemporary Irish cuisine served. A health spa is on site. www.khh.ie

# LEENANE Delphi Lodge

Leenane, Co Galway Tel 095 42222 Fax 095 42296 Rooms 12

€€€€ Road map B3

One of Ireland's most famous sporting lodges, Delphi Lodge was built by the Marquis of Sligo in the 1830s. The 600-acre estate is set in a valley surrounded by majestic mountains. Inside, there's a wonderful selection of books, antiques and fishing gear. Communal dining. Activities include fly-fishing and hiking. www.delphilodge.ie

### LETTERFRACK Renvyle House Hotel

川舎大

€€€ Road map A3

Renvyle, Co Galway Tel 095 43511 Fax 095 43515 Rooms 68 This historic and romantic house, on the edge of the Atlantic, is among Ireland's best-loved hotels. Wooden beams, polished floors and turf fires create a stylish yet relaxed atmosphere. Good food. Former guests include WB Yeats and Winston Churchill. Ideal for families. Attractions include tennis, golf, croquet and trout fishing. www.renvyle.com

# LETTERFRACK Rosleague Manor House Hotel

Letterfrack, Co Galway Tel 095 41101 Fax 095 41168 Rooms 20

11 7

€€€€ Road map A3

This wonderful, 200-year-old Regency Manor is a tranquil retreat appealing to all sensibilities. Gardens planted with exotic plants and shrubs sweep down to Ballinakill Bay. Elegantly furnished, it holds great charm and character and provides relaxed luxury and panoramic views. Country house cuisine is superbly executed. www.rosleague.com

# **MULRANY Rosturk Woods**

河大

Mulrany, Co Mayo Tel 098 36264 Fax 098 36264 Rooms 3

Road map B3

Set in secluded woodland and close to the sea, this stylishly furnished house is family-run and informal. Service is friendly and the en suite bedrooms are pretty. Delighful veranda overlooking Clew Bay. The host is a qualified sailing instructor and leads boating and fishing outings. There's tennis on the grounds. www.rosturk-woods.com

# **NEWPORT Newport House**

田大

€€€€

Newport, Co Mayo Tel 098 41222 Fax 098 41613 Rooms 18 Road map 83 This magnificent historic Georgian mansion, clad in Virginia creeper, is set in gardens that sweep down to the River Newport. Ideal for guests seeking refined comfort and gracious hospitality. The restaurant is greatly celebrated for its fresh seafood and exceptional wine list. Salmon and sea trout fishing nearby. www.newporthouse.ie

# **OUGHTERARD** Currarevagh House

€€€

Oughterard, Co Galway Tel 091 552 312 Fax 091 552 731 Rooms 15

Road map B3

In a tranquil spot on the shores of Lough Corrib and surrounded by woods, parkland and gardens, this romantic Victorian country house is traditionally run. Good home cooking using fresh local produce. Fishing is a popular pursuit in these parts: salmon, brown trout, pike and perch. Great country walks. www.currarevagh.com

### **OUGHTERARD** Ross Lake House

田太

€€€

(E)(E)

Rosscahill, Co Galway Tel 091 550 109 Fax 091 550 184 Rooms 13

Road map B3

Situated in delightful gardens, this 1850 country house provides comfortably furnished accommodation. Antiques and four-poster beds may be found in the generously proportioned bedrooms. Charming hosts. Fishing is possible on the nearby loughs and tennis on the grounds. **www.rosslakehotel.com** 

### PONTOON Healy's Restaurant & Country House Hotel

四景

Pontoon, Foxford, Co Mayo Tel 094 925 6443 Fax 094 925 6572 Rooms 14

Road map B3

In a stunning position on the shores of Lough Conn and Lough Cullen, this traditional old stone building has been refurbished, yet retains its old-world feel. Simple, neat bedrooms are reasonably priced. There's a pleasant garden on the grounds. Popular with bird-watchers and fishing afficionados. Good Irish cooking, www.healyspontoon.com

### **RECESS Ballynahinch Castle Hotel**

Recess, Co Galway Tel 095 31006 Fax 095 31085 Rooms 40

Road map A3

This Victorian castle, once the home of an Indian maharajah, Ranjit Singh, is known as a fishing destination. Set in 450 acres of beautiful woodland and gardens on the banks of the River Ballynahinch. The elegant Owenmore restaurant, overlooking the winding river, features Connemara lamb and fresh fish. **www.ballynahinch-castle.com** 

### **ROSCAHILL Knockferry Lodge**

国

Roscahill, Co Galway Tel 091 550 122 Rooms 10

Road map B3

Situated in a tranquil spot on the western shores of Lough Corrib, it provides reasonably-priced B&B accommodation with plain decor and furnishings. The atmosphere is very friendly and peaceful and the food good. Outside the front door is a quay with fishing boats moored. A good base for fishing and cycling. www.knockferrylodge.com

### ROSCOMMON Abbey Hotel Conference & Leisure

€€€

(F)(F)

Galway Rd, Co Roscommon **Tel** 090 662 6240 **Fax** 090 662 6021 **Rooms** 50

Road map C3

Set on its own grounds and gardens, this three-star hotel takes its name from a 13th-century Dominican abbey, whose ruins may still be seen. Recently refurbished, it provides decent accommodation and a friendly atmosphere. En suite bedrooms are reasonably furnished and are equipped with modern facilities, www.abbeyhotel.ie

# ROUNDSTONE The Anglers Return

€€

Toombeola, Co Galway Tel 095 31091 Rooms 5

Road map A3

This 18th-century sporting lodge is now a charming guesthouse, It has an uncluttered interior, furnished by occasional antique pieces, whitewashed walls and wooden floors. Open fires and fresh flowers add to the quiet ambience. Rooms are tastefully done. Lynn Hill is an attentive and friendly host. Non-smoking property. www.anglersreturn.com

### SPIDDAL Iverna Cottage

河大

E E

Salahoona, Co Galway Tel 091 553 762 Rooms 4

Road map B4

Overlooking Galway Bay, this immaculate, recently built stone guesthouse is the most architecturally appealing structure in the area. Pretty bedrooms with cast-iron beds and attractive handmade quilts are inviting. Cosy, informal atmosphere created by welcoming hosts and turf fires. Open May to September. www.ivernacottage.8m.com

### **TUAM Waterslade House**

刊大

€€

Waterslade Place, Co Galway Tel 093 60888 Fax 093 60838 Rooms 4

Road map 83

Just 20 minutes from Galway, this historic 18th-century house is now a well-rated B&B and restaurant, located in the centre of Tuam. The charming hosts have an innate flair for design, which is reflected in the romantic interiors and carefully chosen furnishings. Individually designed bedrooms. Tasty breakfasts. www.watersladehouse.com

### WESTPORT Olde Railway Hotel

田泉

€€€

The Mall, Co Mayo Tel 098 25166 Fax 098 25090 Rooms 26

Road map B

Built in 1780 as a coaching inn for the guests of Lord Sligo, this traditional hotel retains its character and charm. It is an ideal base for exploring Westport town. Antique furnishings and pleasant staff enhance the warm ambience. Organic garden at the rear supplies the kitchen. www.theolderailwayhotel.com

### NORTHWEST IRELAND

### ARDARA The Green Gate

€€€

Ardvally, Co Donegal Tel 074 954 1546 Rooms 4

Road map C2

Efficiently run by its French owner, Paul Chatenoud, this is one of the best B&Bs around. The beautiful landscape adds to its fantastic reputation. The accommodation is spread over three low thatched-roof cottages. The rooms are primitive but pleasant, with tweed coverlets on the simple beds. www.greengate-ireland.com

### **BUNDORAN Gillaroo Lodge**

Road map C2

West End, Bundoran, Co Donegal Tel 071 984 2357 Rooms 5

Noau map

Located in the pretty seaside town of Bundoran, Gillaroo Lodge is ideal for anglers, with excellent fishing locally. All rooms are en suite and Tourist Board approved. Fishing guides can be arranged on request. The scenic landscape around is ideal for walks. There are reputed golf courses nearby, http://ireland.iol.le/~gillaroo/

**Key to Price Guide** see p294 **Key to Symbols** see back cover flap

€€

# BUNDORAN Fitzgerald's Hotel and Bistro

m

Bundoran, Co Donegal Tel 071 984 1336 Fax 071 984 2121 Rooms 16

Main St. Donegal Town, Co Donegal Tel 074 972 1187 Rooms 16

Road map C2

Situated on the main street west of the town centre, this hotel overlooks stunning Donegal Bay. Though unspectacular, the rooms are spacious and comfortable, while the service is efficient and warm. The bistro has a good reputation for standard Irish fare. Turf fires warm the reception rooms. www.fitzgeraldshotel.com

### **DONEGAL Atlantic Guest House**

夏太

Road map C2

This family-run guesthouse provides friendly accommodation in the heart of Donegal Town. Well-priced rooms are spacious, if a little sparse, and each one has a colour TV and coffee-maker. Some rooms share a bathroom. Staff are courteous. Only a minute's walk from the bus stop. **www.atlanticguesthouse.ie** 

# DONEGAL St. Ernan's House

Country Inn Lodgings, Co Donegal Tel 074 972 1065 Fax 074 972 2098 Rooms 10

Road map C2

Built by the Duke of Wellington's nephew in 1826, this pink-painted house is set on a small island, linked to the mainland by a causeway. Inside, it is elegantly furnished, while maintaining an informal atmosphere. Each room is individually decorated and most have breathtaking views. Open mid-April to late October. www.sainternans.com

### **DRUMCLIFF Urlar House**

国大

€(€

Co Sligo **Tel** 071 916 3110 **Rooms** 4

Road map C2

Enjoying a quiet location in the shadow of Ben Bulben, this attractive farmhouse makes a perfect base for exploring Yeats country. Simple en suite accommodation is provided. The superb house cooking is highly recommended in the Galtee Breakfast Awards. Book in advance.

### **DUNFANAGHY The Mill**

**™** ★

Figart, Co Donegal Tel 074 913 6985 Fax 074 913 6985 Rooms 6

Road map C1

With a beautiful location on the New Lake shore, The Mill was once home to the current owner's grandfather. The rooms have some nice touches, with good new beds and antique furnishings. Relax at the conservatory overlooking the lake. The guesthouse is attached to the excellent Mill Restaurant. www.themillrestaurant.com

# **DUNKINEELY Castle Murray House**

**\* © ©** 

St John's Point, Co Donegal **Tel** 074 973 7022 **Fax** 074 973 7330 **Rooms** 10

Road map C2

Stunningly located with views of McSweeney Bay, this is a wonderful place to stay. The decor is simple, but each room is individually themed, such as Hunting Room, Oriental Room, Golf Room. The restaurant offers a delicious menu, with head chef Remy Dupuy specializing in seafood with a French flair. www.castlemurray.com

# **LETTERKENNY Croaghross**

ИX

Portsalon, Co Donegal **Tel** 074 915 9548 **Fax** 074 915 9548 **Rooms** 4

Road map C1

A modern guesthouse set high on the hill overlooking Lough Swilly, Croaghross is owned by marvellous hosts, John and Kay Deane. There's a shared living room with a large open fire and a newly landscaped rock garden. Excellent breakfasts feature fresh juices, fruit and yogurt, as well as porridge and muesli. **www.croaghross.com** 

# LETTERKENNY Castle Grove Country House Hotel

71 X

€€€

Ballymaleel, Co Donegal **Tel** 074 915 1118 **Fax** 074 915 1384 **Rooms** 15

Road map C1

Approached down a long avenue through lovely parkland, this 17th-century house looks out on to Lough Swilly and is a peaceful and relaxing place to stay. Rooms are spacious and attractive with luxurious in-house services available. Complete with an elegant library and drawing rooms. **www.castlegrove.com** 

# **LETTERKENNY Radisson SAS Hotel Letterkenny**

20 11 金 末 V

€€€

Loop Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal Tel 074 919 4444 Fax 074 919 4455 Rooms 114

Road map C1

Only a five-minute walk from the town centre, this four-star establishment is a relatively new branch of the highlyrated Radisson group. The atrium-style lobby creates a contemporary ambience that exists throughout the hotel. Disabled bedroom facilities as well as ample parking are provided. www.radissonsas.com

### LOUGH ESKE Harvey's Point

Donegal Town, Co Donegal **Tel** 074 972 2208 **Fax** 074 972 2352 **Rooms** 33

Road map C2

A Swiss-style hotel on the banks of Lough Eske, Harvey's Point has neat, modern furnishings, an excellent restaurant and many sports facilities. Most rooms overlook the lough and are airy and comfortable. The Executive Suites have four-poster beds and are located slightly away from the main hotel complex. www.harveyspoint.com

### **MOHILL Glebe House**

X

Ballinamore Rd, Co Leitrim **Tel** 071 963 1086 **Fax** 071 963 1886 **Rooms** 8

Road map C3

B&B accommodation on a grand scale is available in this early 19th-century former rectory, set in 20 ha (50 acres) of parkland, woods and farmland. It's peaceful and attractive with extensive gardens to wander in. There is a 10-percent discount on booking for more than one night and special pricing for senior citizens. www.glebehouse.com

# RIVERSTOWN Coopershill House

Road map C2

Riverstown, Co Sligo Tel 071 916 5108 Fax 071 916 5466 Rooms 8

Noau map Cz

This is a very civilized, elegant 17th-century house surrounded by a vast estate. Rooms are decorated with tasteful antiques. Elegantly furnished bedrooms are huge, with four-poster or canopy beds. Open log fires and personal attention combine with the historic atmosphere to make it a real joy. Excellent food. www.coopershill.com

# **ROSSES POINT Yeats Country Hotel**

図川船大学

€)€

€€

Rosses Point, Co Sligo Tel 071 917 7211 Fax 071 917 7203 Rooms 98

Road map B2

At the foot of Ben Bulben and looking out to the Atlantic, this hotel is an ideal base for exploring Yeats country. En suite rooms, though ordinary in decor, are equipped with a multi-channel TV, direct dial telephone, hairdryer and coffee-maker. Look out for a wide range of events held here. www.yeatscountryhotel.com

# ROSSNOWLAGH Smuggler's Creek

田太

Rossnowlagh, Co Donegal Tel 071 985 2366 Fax 071 982 2000 Rooms 5 Road map C2

In an area where the smuggling trade once flourished and pirates roamed the seas, Smuggler's Creek is a very cosy place in a wonderful location on top of a cliff overlooking Rossnowlagh beach. There's a choice of bar food, with oysters and mussels harvested from local beds, and a restaurant.

# **ROSSNOWLAGH Sand House Hotel**

HIX

Rossnowlagh, Donegal Bay, Co Donegal Tel 071 985 1777 Fax 071 985 2100 Rooms 60 Road map C2

An imposing, white castellated building, right on a sandy beach at Donegal Bay, this long-established hotel is very comfortable and well decorated and has a relaxed atmosphere. Originally a fishing lodge, it now has many beautiful rooms, some with four-poster beds, www.sandhouse-hotel.ie

### STRANORLAR Kee's Hotel and Leisure Club

國 11 盒 ★ "♥"

€€€ Road map C2

€€€

A coaching inn and mail staging post in the 19th century, the hotel has been in the Kee family for four generations and still maintains a tradition of generous hospitality. Excellent modern cuisine is served in the restaurant, which has earned it two AA Rosettes. There's an excellent leisure centre. www.keeshotel.ie

### THE MIDLANDS

# ATHLONE Hodson Bay Hotel

® II € X V

€€€€

Hodson Bay, Co Westmeath Tel 090 644 2000 Fax 090 644 2020 Rooms 133

Ballybofey, Co Donegal Tel 074 913 1018 Fax 074 913 1917 Rooms 53

Road map (3)

In the centre of Ireland, on the shores of Lough Ree, this cheerfully decorated hotel is adjacent to Athlone Golf Club. Spacious bedrooms have been recently refurbished and many of them enjoy great views of the lake. Located 90 minutes from Dublin and Galway. Acitivities include cruising on the River Shannon. www.hodsonbayhotel.com

### BALLYCONNELL Slieve Russell Hotel, Golf & Country Club

创 II 金 大 V €€€€

Ballyconnell, Co Cavan Tel 049 952 6444 Fax 049 952 6474 Rooms 219

Loughdooley, Co Cavan Tel 049 952 2616 Fax 049 952 2616 Rooms 14

Road map C3

Taking its name from the nearby mountain, this hotel is set in 300 acres of landscaped gardens and lakes. It is very much a focus for business and social activity in the area. Bedrooms are spacious, with good bathrooms. The excellent leisure facilities include an 18-hole golf course, spa and treatment centre. www.quinnhotels.com

### **BELTURBET International Fishing Centre**

m 🛪

€€ Road map C3

Frenchman Michael Neuville offers residential fishing holidays at this delightfully tranquil waterside place. Individual wooden chalets, on the edge of the River Erne, can accommodate up to five people, making it ideal for a family holiday, whether fishing or not. For enthusiasts, coarse and pike fishing await. www.angling-holidays.com

BIRR The Stables Town House & Restaurant 川大

# 6 Oxmantown Mall, Co Offaly Tel 0509 20263 Fax 0509 21677 Rooms 6

Road map C4

On a tree-lined mall in the centre of the town, this Georgian house is a long-established B&B with a popular restaurant. The comfortable, old-world bedrooms are en suite and either overlook the mall or the courtyard. Pets are allowed. Its central location makes it an ideal base to explore this heritage town. www.thestablesrestaurant.com

### **CARLINGFORD Grove House**

€€

Grove Rd. Co Louth Tel 042 937 3494 Fax 042 938 3851 Rooms 6

Road map D3

Offering views of the Mourne Mountains, Grove House is just a short walk form Carlingford Lough. Decent B&B accommodation is available in a friendly atmosphere. Bedrooms are brightly decorated, reasonably priced and all en suite. Breakfast is served in the dining room overlooking the mountains. www.grovehousecarlingford.com

# **CARLINGFORD Viewpoint**

€€€

Omeath Rd, Co Louth Tel 042 937 3149 Rooms 6

Road map D3

This motel-style B&B provides modern accommodation. Well-equipped bedrooms, each with its own private entrance, have views across picturesque Carlingford Lough to the majestic Mourne Mountains. The atmosphere is informal and easy-going. Caters for individuals and groups. www.viewpointcarlingford.com

# CARLINGFORD McKevitt's Village Hotel

Road map D3

Market Square, Co Louth Tel 042 937 3116 Fax 042 937 3144 Rooms 17 This popular family-run country village inn is located in the town centre. Bedrooms are bright, clean and pretty, with adequate bathrooms. The bar, lounge and dining room combine old-world charm with modern comfort. Rooms have real fires and a lively atmosphere. Occasional special offers are available. www.mckevittshotel.com

Key to Price Guide see p294 Key to Symbols see back cover flap

### CLONES Hilton Park

# **(()** 

Clones, Co Monaghan Tel 047 56007 Fax 047 56033 Rooms 6

Road map C2

One of Ireland's greatest country houses, this magnificent mansion overlooks 200 acres of woodland and green pastures. A romantic and cinematic setting with lakes, a lover's walk and formal gardens. In the charming Madden family since 1734, the house is beautifully furnished and exudes a relaxed grandeur. www.hiltonpark.ie

CLOVERHILL Olde Post Inn

MA

€€

Cloverhill. Co Cavan Tel 047 55555 Fax 047 55111 Rooms 6

Road map (3

Originally a post office, this pretty stone building has been a popular inn since 1974. The ambience is rustic, with wooden beams and exposed walls. En suite rooms are modest but cosy. The superb restaurant uses regional produce. Service is efficient. Hiking, horse-riding and fishing nearby. **www.theoldepostinn.com** 

**COLLINSTOWN Lough Bishop House** 

Road map C3

This attractive Georgian house is nestled into a south-facing slope overlooking Bishop's Lough and rolling countryside. Extensively renovated, it now offers appealing rooms in peaceful surroundings. Bedrooms have lovely views. Good country cooking using seasonal farm produce. Dinner by advance notice. www.derrynagarra.com

**CROSSDONEY Lisnamandra Country House** 

Derrynagara, Co Westmeath Tel 044 61313 Rooms 3

€

Lisnamandra, Co Cavan Tel 049 433 7196 Fax 049 433 7196 Rooms 5

Road map C3

This restored and modernized 17th-century farmhouse is ideal for those looking for simple but good accommodation at a reasonable price. The pastoral setting is relaxing. Bedrooms have en suite facilities. It is run by the Neill family, who are welcoming hosts. Open May to October. Iisnamandra@eircom.net

DROGHEDA Boyne Valley Hotel & Country Club

2011 金大型

€€€

Drogheda, Co Louth **Tel** 041 983 7737 **Fax** 041 983 9188 **Rooms** 72

Road map D3

Surrounded by gardens and woodland, this much-extended 18th-century manor house, though refurbished with modern furnishings, preserves its traditional feel. It offers good leisure facilities and capable service. Bedrooms in the old building have more character, while the newer ones provide better facilities. **www.boynevalleyhotel.ie** 

**DULEEK Annesbrook** 

€ €

Duleek, Co Meath **Tel** 041 982 3293 **Fax** 041 982 3024 **Rooms** 5

Road map D3

This classically proportioned Georgian house, set in rich parkland, is a tranquil retreat. Contemporary Irish art lines the walls and open fires create an atmosphere of laid-back elegance. Bedrooms are spacious, quiet and thoughtfully decorated. George IV and William Thackeray were among its illustrious visitors. **www.annesbrook.com** 

KILMESSAN Station House Hotel & Restaurant

Kilmessan, Co Meath Tel 046 902 5239 Fax 046 902 5588 Rooms 20

Road map D3

The last passenger train made its final stop in Kilmessan in 1947. A nostalgic reminder of a bygone era, this Victorian station building is now a cosy hotel with upgraded bedrooms featuring modern facilities. The bar overlooks very pleasant landscaped gardens, whose fresh flowers feature within the hotel. www.thestationhousehotel.com

KINNITY Ardmore House

國大

€€

The Walk, Co Offaly Tel 0509 37009 Rooms 5 Road map C4
This sensitively restored Victorian house, set in its own garden, is located in the picturesque village of Kinnitty, at the

Inis sensitively restored victorian house, set in its own garden, is located in the picturesque village or kinnity, at the foot of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. The turf fire, home cooking and relaxed atmosphere add to the old-fashioned feel of the house. Bedrooms are tastefully decorated, if free of many modern amenities. **www.kinnitty.net** 

LONGFORD Viewmount House

€€

66

Dublin Rd, Co Longford **Tel** 043 41919 **Fax** 043 42906 **Rooms** 6

Road map C3

This 1750s Georgian house, on the outskirts of Longford town, was originally owned by the Earl of Longford and has been recently restored with flair and sensitivity. The wooded gardens create an elegant and welcoming atmosphere. Lovely bedrooms with period furniture and rug-covered wooden floors. www.viewmounthouse.com

LONGFORD The Longford Arms Hotel

11 盒 大 🐨

€€€

Main St, Co Longford Tel 043 46296 Fax 043 46244 Rooms 62

Road map C3

Located in the heart of Longford town, this is a popular family-run hotel, furnished in traditional style. All bedrooms are en suite and comfortable. Food is served all day in the coffee shop until 8pm. The restaurant serves evening meals. Health and leisure centre on site. www.longfordarms.ie

MOATE Temple Country House & Spa

THE R.

**©©©©** 

Horseleap, Co Westmeath Tel 0506 35118 Fax 0506 35008 Rooms 23

Road map C4

Set in rolling parkland, this beautiful 250-year-old country house is a haven of relaxation and well-being. Meticulously maintained bedrooms are bright, airy and stylishly decorated. Delicious home cooking. Variety of spa treatments available. Attractions include nature walks, horse-riding and cycling. www.templespa.ie

MOUNTNUGENT Ross House Equestrian Centre

X

nan (2

Mountnugent, Co Cavan **Tel** 049 854 0218 **Fax** 049 854 0218 **Rooms** 6

Road map C3

On the shores of Lough Sheelin, this old manor house enjoys a peaceful location amidst gardens. Reasonably priced accommodation comes with a range of outdoor pursuits. Bedrooms are comfortable, some with their own conservatories or fireplaces. Good home cooking for each meal. Packed lunches available. **www.ross-house.com** 

### MOUNTRATH Roundwood House

€€€

€€

€€€

€€€

Mountrath, Co Laois Tel 0502 32120 Fax 0502 32711 Rooms 10

Road map C4

This impressive 18th-century Palladian house, set in mature parkland, is surrounded by beech, lime and horse chestnut trees. Rooms are comfortable and well-proportioned. The Kennan family are delightful hosts. Enjoy good home cooking and delicious breakfasts. Communal dining. www.roundwoodhouse.com

### MULLINGAR Greville Arms

Pearse St, Co Westmeath Tel 044 48563 Fax 044 48052 Rooms 40

In the heart of Mullingar, this three-star traditional country town hotel caters for local clientele and tourists. Bedrooms are comfortable and neat. There's a large and welcoming bar, Ulysses, and a nightclub, Le Louvre. Former patrons include James Joyce who immortalized the bar in his book Stephen Hero. Food served all day. www.grevillearmshotel.com

### **MULLINGAR Bloomfield House**

利用金大学

Mullingar, Co Westmeath Tel 044 40894 Fax 044 43767 Rooms 111

Road map (3

Situated 5 km (3 miles) outside the town of Mullingar, this recently refurbished hotel overlooks the peaceful waters of Lough Ennell. Lovely parkland surrounds this former dower house, with a comfortably furnished interior and wellequipped bedrooms. Staff are helpful. Leisure centre on site. www.bloomfieldhouse.com

### **MULTYFARNHAM Mornington House**

Mornington, Co Westmeath Tel 044 72191 Fax 044 72338 Rooms 5

Road map (3)

Home to the O'Hara family since 1858, this charming Victorian house lies close to Lough Derravarragh. Warm colours, open fires, period furniture and paintings create a classic Irish country house. The gardens are a delight. Canoes, boats and bicycles for hire. A variety of horse-based activities are available. www.mornington.ie

### **OLDCASTLE Lough Crew House**

€€€

Oldcastle, Co Meath Tel 049 854 1356 Fax 049 854 1921 Rooms 3

Road map D3

Lying in the heart of this archeologically rich area, this B&B is set in 100 acres of woodland and lakes. Fine furniture, paintings and log fires exude elegance. The creative Napper family, when not graciously hosting guests, are busy organizing the summertime garden opera or running the school of gilding. www.loughcrew.com

### **PORTLAOISE Ivyleigh House**

€€

Bank Place, Church St, Co Laois Tel 0502 22081 Fax 0502 63343 Rooms 4

Road man C4

This lovingly restored 1850 house is probably the best B&B in town. Thoughtfully furnished with comfort and grace in mind, it combines the ancient with the modern. Bedrooms are large and very comfortable. Breakfasts are excellent and cooked using the finest of local and seasonal produce. www.ivyleigh.com

### SLANE Conyngham Arms

竹木

**€**(**€**)

Slane, Co Meath Tel 041 988 4444 Fax 041 982 4205 Rooms 15

Road map D3

This family-run, three-star hotel is situated in the heart of a charming estate village, originally developed by the Conyngham family of Slane Castle. Possessing an attractive stone façade, it is inviting and restful. En suite bedrooms are neat. Well located for visiting the rich Boyne Valley area. www.conynghamarms.com

€€

**TULLAMORE Annaharvey Farm** ㅊ Tullamore, Co Offaly Tel 0506 43544 Fax 0506 43766 Rooms 7

Road map C4

Equestrian activities are the main attraction at this restored grain barn with pitch-pine floors and beams and open fires. En suite bedrooms are provided. Horseriding tuition is available in indoor and outdoor arenas. Cross-country riding and trekking can be organized. Cycling, walking and golf close by. www.annaharveyfarm.ie

### NORTHERN IRELAND

### ANNALONG Glassdrumman Lodge

11 大

Mill Rd, Co Down, BT34 4RH Tel 028 4376 8451 Fax 028 437 67041 Rooms 10

Road map D2

Set deep in the "Kingdom of Mourne", the hotel looks out on the region's famous dry-stone walls. All the rooms are bright and tastefully decorated with satellite television, hairdryers, 24-hour room service and direct dial telephones. A valet service is also available, as are ironing and laundry facilities. www.glassdrummanlodge.com

# **ARMAGH Charlemont Arms**

11 大

(£)(£)

57-65 English St, Armagh, BT61 7LB Tel 028 3752 2028 Fax 028 3752 6979 Rooms 30 This country-style hotel is perfectly located for the major attractions. What it lacks in luxury it makes up for in the

Road map D2

warmth of its welcome. The recently refurbished rooms are all en suite and finished in designer fabrics. A TV, hospitality tray and temperature control are provided in each room. www.charlemontarmshotel.com

# **ARMAGH Desart Guest House**

99 Cathedral Rd, Co Armagh, BT61 8AE Tel 028 3752 2387 Fax 028 3751 0587 Rooms 3

Road map D2

Although this formidable mansion may have a sort of Hitchcockian appearance to it, the traveller can be assured of a comfortable stay here. Character seeps from this place, whether it's the building's extraordinary appearance or the stuffed bird in the hallway. Rooms are large and comfortable. lucymcroberts@yahoo.co.uk

Key to Symbols see back cover flap

### **BALLYCASTLE Fragrens' B&B**

同

(£)

34 Quay Rd, Co Antrim, BT54 6BH Tel 028 2076 2168 Rooms 7

Road map D1

This fully-modernized 17th-century house is situated at the harbour end of Quay Road in the centre of Ballycastle. All rooms are centrally heated, with a coffee-maker and colour TV. There are panoramic views and helpful service is provided by the family. www.members.aol.com/jgreene710

# **BALLYGALLY Hastings Ballygally Castle**

沙 11 大

274 Coast Rd, Co Antrim, BT40 2QZ Tel 028 2858 1066 Fax 028 2858 3681 Rooms 44

Road map D1

(£)(£)

**£££** 

Reputedly haunted, the castle showpiece is the Ghost Room, a tiny old tower bedroom with a macabre legend. Original beamed ceilings and antique pine furniture make these rooms extremely appealing, though they are suitably equipped with all modern conveniences. www.hastingshotels.com

### **BALLYMENA Galgorm Manor**

刊关

136 Fenaghy Rd, Co Antrim, BT42 1EA **Tel** 028 2588 1001 **Fax** 028 2588 0080 **Rooms** 24 **Road map** D1

The River Maine sweeps past this converted gentleman's residence, enhancing the view from many of the rooms. All rooms are en suite and luxurious, and service is excellent. There are also six self-catering cottages for families. Fishing and other pursuits are available on the magnificent 85-acre estate. www.galgorm.com

### **BANGOR Cairn Bay Lodge**

**(£)(£)** 

278 Seacliff Rd, Co Down, BT20 5HS Tel 028 91 467636 Rooms 5

Road map E2

This turn-of-the-19th-century B&B, situated on the shores of Ballyholme Bay, is a rare treasure set in its own mature gardens. Inside, there are elegant lounges decorated with a Victorian touch. Meals are served in the oak-panelled lounge overlooking the gardens and the proprietress offers beauty and natural therapies. www.cairnbaylodge.com

### **BELFAST Maranatha Guesthouse**

(6)

254 Ravenhill Rd, Co Antrim, BT6 8GJ Tel 028 9046 0200 Fax 028 9059 8740 Rooms 11

Road map D2

This carefully restored, 18th-century redbrick town house looks over one of Belfast's largest and most beautiful parks, Ormeau Park. Rooms are spacious with modern facilities that belie the building's age. A cosy place located in a pretty area, slightly removed from the city centre. Entirely non-smoking property. www.marnatha-guesthouse.com

### **BELFAST Marine House**

30 Eglantine Ave, Co Antrim, BT9 6DZ **Tel** 028 9066 2828 **Rooms** 10

Road map D2

This large Victorian villa stands adjacent to a tree-lined avenue. The airy interior is graceful with towering ceilings. A good-value option given the high standards of housekeeping, large rooms, and front gardens. Rooms have en suite bathrooms and an oil-fired central heating at night. www.marineguesthouse3star.com

### **BELFAST Avenue Guesthouse**

££

23 Eglantine Ave, Co Antrim, BT9 6DW **Tel** 028 9066 5904 **Fax** 028 9029 1810 **Rooms** 5

Road map D2

This refurbished Victorian town house is located in the leafy suburbs of the University area. Old and new meld well, and while all the original features have been retained, wireless Internet is available, as are Internet facilities in the lounge. Bedrooms are large and elegant, with shower, TV and direct-dial phones.

### **BELFAST Duke's Hotel**

包11大学

**€€ Road map** D2

In the heart of the city, this recently-refurbished modern hotel provides comfort, style and international cuisine. Each room comes complete with TV, direct-dial telephones and tea and coffee facilities. There's a lively public bar, frequented by students from nearby Queen's University. **www.welcome-group.co.uk** 

### **BELFAST Ash Rowan**

(£)(£)(£)

12 Windsor Ave, Co Antrim, BT9 6EE Tel 028 9066 1758 Fax 028 9066 3227 Rooms 5

65 University St, Co Antrim, BT7 1HL Tel 028 9023 6666 Fax 028 9023 7177 Rooms 12

Road map D2

In the leafy southside of the city, Ash Rowan is a luxury guesthouse providing elegant rooms, furnished with luxurious Irish linen sheets and complimentary snacks. The tasteful decor features beautiful antiques. Nine different gourmet breakfasts are served here, all excellent.

### **BELFAST Hastings Stormont Hotel**

國川島大丁

**£££** 

587 Upper Newtonards Rd, Co Antrim, BT4 3LP Tel 028 9065 1066 Rooms 105

Road map D2

Close to the airport and overlooking the gardens of Stormont Castle, this modern and functional hotel is excellent for business people. The lounge area has been recently refurbished. Rooms are luxurious and tastefully decorated in muted tones, with spacious desk areas and en suite facilities. www.hastingshotels.com

# **BELFAST Belfast Hilton**

图 11 金 大 17

£££

4 Lanyon Place, Co Antrim, BT1 3LP Tel 028 9027 7000 Fax 028 9027 7277 Rooms 197

Road ma

This gigantic, sumptuous hotel in the docklands adds immeasurably to the Belfast skyline. The luxury and high rates befit a Hilton hotel. The Executive Rooms on the top three levels provide spectacular views of the city. Wireless broadband is available in the lobby. The superb Sonoma restaurant is worth visiting, www.hilton.co.uk/Belfast

# **BELFAST Europa Hotel**

◎ 11 ★ 17

**£££** 

Great Victoria St, Co Antrim, BT2 7AP Tel 028 9027 1066 Fax 028 9032 7800 Rooms 240

Road map D2

An imposing building in the heart of the Golden Mile, Europa is one of Belfast's best hotels, ideal for business people and tourists. Bill Clinton stayed here during his visits to the city. Standard rooms offer en suite facilities and all other expected amenities. The Grand Opera House and Waterfront Hall are nearby. www.hastingshotels.com

£ under £50

**€**€ £50−£100

**€€** £100−£150

**₤££** £150-£200

**₤₤££** over £200

# **CARNLOUGH Londonderry Arms Hotel**

11 7

20 Harbour Rd, Co Antrim, BT44 0EU Tel 028 2888 5255 Fax 028 2888 5263 Rooms 35

Road map D1

Winston Churchill once owned this ivy-covered inn next to the harbour of Carnlough, a breathtaking setting at the foot of Glencloy. It is now owned and managed by the O'Neill family, one of the longest-established hotelier families in the country, giving the residence a genuine warmth of welcome. www.glensofantrim.com

### **COLERAINE Camus House**

(£)

27 Curragh Rd, Castleroe, Co Londonderry, BT51 3RY Tel 028 7034 2982 Rooms 3 Road map D1

This listed country house was built in 1685 and overlooks the River Bann. An elegant pebble driveway is offset by an ivy-covered façade. Tastefully decorated rooms are non-smoking and furnished with TV and coffee-maker. Regional Galtee Irish Breakfast award winner.

### CRAWFORDSBURN The Old Inn at Crawfordsburn

46 Coast Rd, Co Antrim, BT44 ORX Tel 028 2177 1495 Rooms 6

**(£)(£)** Road map E2

Crawfordsburn, Co Down, BT19 1JH Tel 028 9185 3255 Fax 028 9185 2775 Rooms 31 One of Ireland's oldest hostelries, this thatched 16th-century inn offers quality and comfort with roaring log fires and

four-poster beds in some rooms. Each en suite room is individually decorated in a tasteful fashion and named after local landmarks, historic houses and wildflowers. www.theoldinn.com

# **CUSHENDALL** Glendale

Road map D1

Generously proportioned rooms and a warm welcome make Glendale a cut above the other B&Bs in Cushendall. Coffee-maker, biscuits and TV are provided in each colourfully decorated bedroom. Bathrooms are en suite and there's also a TV lounge. The rates are reasonable and offer good value for money.

### **DOWNHILL Downhill Hostel**

12 Mussenden Rd, Coleraine, Co Londonderry, BT51 4RP Tel 028 7084 9077 Rooms 9

Road map D1

This beautiful backpackers' hostel has a beach in front, cliffs at the rear and a rocky stream flowing just past it. There are laundry facilities, a guest kitchen, and a barbecue area, as well as a working pottery studio. Private rooms are available as well as dormitories with high bunks, hand-sewn quilts and full-sized beds. www.downhillhostel.com

### DOWNPATRICK Denvir's Hotel

14-16 English St, Co Down, BT30 6AB Tel 028 4461 2012 Fax 028 4461 7002 Rooms 6

Road map E2

Built in 1642 by Thomas McGreevy, this is a listed building. Recent restoration revealed a number of interesting features, and the hotel has been well converted for modern purposes. En suite bedrooms are spacious. An atmospheric restaurant serves local specialities such as wild mushrooms and sloke (seaweed). www.denvirshotel.co.uk

# DOWNPATRICK Pheasants' Hill Country House

(£)(£)

37 Killyleagh Rd, County Down, BT30 9BL Tel 028 4461 7246 Rooms 6

Road map E2

Right in the middle of the wild Down countryside and lapped by Strangford Lough, this luxurious country house has its own grounds and is surrounded by the Quoile Pondage National Nature Reserve. The on-site farm provides the breakfast ingredients. Each room is decorated in a different style. www.pheasantshill.com

# **DUNGANNON Grange Lodge**

7 Grange Rd, Co Tyrone, BT71 7EJ Tel 028 8778 4212 Fax 028 8778 4313 Rooms 5

Road map D2

This lovely, old Georgian house, set in pleasant surroundings, is known for its Ulster home-style cooking and warm hospitality. The proprietress, Norah Brown, has been creating award-winning culinary delights on her Aga stove for over 20 years. There's a spacious drawing room as well as a TV lounge. www.grangelodgecountryhouse.com

### **ENNISKILLEN Railway Hotel**

刊大

(£)(£)

32-34 Forthill St, Co Fermanagh, BT74 6AJ Tel 028 6632 2084 Fax 028 6632 7480 Rooms 19 This convenient family-run hotel should appeal to more than just trainspotters. Across the road from the old Great

Northern Railway station, this cheery yellow hostelry has a number of nicely decorated rooms, all en suite with TV and coffee-maker. The big rooms come with private baths. www.railwayhotelenniskillen.com

# **ENNISKILLEN Killyhevlin Hotel**

11 大

(£)(£)(£)

Killyhevlin, Co Fermanagh, BT74 6RW Tel 028 6632 3481 Fax 028 6632 4726 Rooms 42

Road map C2

The grounds of the hotel sweep down to Lower Lough Erne and many bedrooms look out on the lake, but you will need to pay extra for the view. Outstanding natural beauty in a terrific location makes this an attractive place to stay. Great hospitality. Chalets are also available. www.killyhevlin.com

### **ENNISKILLEN Manor House Country Hotel** Killadeas, Co Fermanagh, BT94 1NY Tel 028 6862 2200 Fax 028 6862 1545 Rooms 81

创 TI 金 大 V

On the shores of Lough Erne, this country hotel has a rich interior, with antiques and paintings as well as a friendly staff. Rooms are tastefully decorated and there's a wide range of choice from deluxe doubles to interconnecting family suites. Some rooms have canopied four-poster beds. www.manor-house-hotel.com

### **HOLYWOOD Hastings Culloden Hotel**

THE XT CECE

Bangor Rd, Co Antrim, BT18 0EX Tel 028 9042 1066 Fax 028 9042 6777 Rooms 79

Road map E2

A superb hotel, set in gardens and woodland by Belfast Lough, this was originally the palace of the Bishops of Down. It retains its opulence, visible in the fine antiques and valuable paintings. Many of the rooms have exquisite views of the lough and beautifully tended gardens. All of them are pleasantly decorated. www.hastingshotels.com

Key to Symbols see back cover flap

### KILKEEL The Kilmorey Arms Hotel

111 大

(£)(£)

41–43 Greencastle St, Co Down, BT34 4BH **Tel** 028 4176 2220 **Fax** 028 4176 5399 **Rooms** 25 **Road map** D3

An excellent base for the Mourne area, this hotel has well-furnished and simple rooms, with full en suite facilities that include coffee-maker and direct-dial phones. Service is friendly and efficient. Golf, tennis, pony trekking and a host of other leisure activities are all locally available. www.kilmoreyarmshotel.co.uk

### LIMAVADY Streeve Hill

£(

25 Dowland Rd, Co Londonderry, BT49 0HP **Tel** 028 7776 6563 **Fax** 028 7776 8285 **Rooms** 3 **Road map** D1

This 18th-century dower house, built on the Drenagh estate in 1730 by Conolly McCausland, is a good base for exploring the area. Its Palladian façade and the gardens are exquisite. Rooms have all modern conveniences. Gourmet meals and delicious breakfasts are served. pandjwelsh@yahoo.co.uk

### **LONDONDERRY Saddlers House**

£

36 Great James St, Co Londonderry, BT48 7DB **Tel** 028 7126 9691 **Fax** 028 7126 6913 **Rooms** 7 **Road map** C1

An elegantly restored Victorian town house, this B&B is located near the city centre in a conservation area. Due to the soothing interior design and the staff's friendly demeanour, a cosy atmosphere prevails. All rooms are equipped with TV and books, and there's freshly brewed coffee and home-made jams. www.thesaddlershouse.com

### LONDONDERRY Travelodge Hotel

**TIX** 

22–24 Strand Rd, Co Londonderry, BT48 7AB **Tel** 028 7127 1271 **Fax** 028 7127 1277 **Rooms** 39 **Road map** C1

Situated right in the city centre, adjacent to the river and famous city walls, the Travelodge is one of Derry's better hotels. The large, clean rooms are all en suite and comfortably equipped with all modern conveniences. Family rooms offer good value, www.travelodge.ie

### LONDONDERRY Beech Hill Country House

刨 11 ★ ♥

EE

32 Ardmore Rd, Co Londonderry, BT47 3QP **Tel** 028 7134 9279 **Fax** 028 7134 5366 **Rooms** 27 **Road map** Ci

Good service and food and a real "home from home" atmosphere. Some of the bedrooms have beautiful pieces of Victorian furniture, giving the feel of a grand old country house. Guests can walk through the hotel's 32-acre woodland and gardens. Massage, reflexology and reiki treatment are available. www.beech-hill.com

### NEWCASTLE Burrendale Hotel and Country House

他们是大V

(E)(E)

51 Castlewellan Rd, Co Down, BT33 0JY **Tel** 028 4372 2599 **Fax** 028 4372 2328 **Rooms** 69 **Road map** E2

This hotel is an excellent base for climbing, horse-riding and golf. All bedrooms are very well equipped, while some have spectacular views of the Mourne mountains. Some of the Ambassador rooms have Jacuzzi baths. There's a cosy bar and an excellent restaurant, Vine. Also on-site is the Impressions day health spa. www.burrendale.com

### **NEWCASTLE Hastings Slieve Donard**

包川大河

Downs Rd, Co Down, BT33 0AH **Tel** 028 4372 1066 **Fax** 028 4372 4830 **Rooms** 126

**€€€€** 

This stunning Victorian redbrick building overlooks the beach and the Royal County Down Golf Course. A central tower rises from the hotel, complementing the magnificent eponymous mountain behind it. Most rooms have spectacular views and 24-hour room service is available. www.hastingshotels.com

# **NEWTOWNARDS Strangford Arms Hotel**

1

(£)(£)

92 Church St, Co Down, BT23 4AL **Tel** 028 9181 4141 **Fax** 028 9181 1010 **Rooms** 37 **Road map** E2

The town's only hotel, this family-run, three-star Victorian building has been home to the famous rose-growing Dicksons of Hawlmark and the headquarters of the North Down Militia. A friendly atmosphere prevails, particularly in the Horseshoe Lounge Bar. All rooms come with private bathrooms. www.strangfordhotel.co.uk

# **OMAGH Four Winds**

X

63 Dromore Rd, Co Tyrone, BT78 1RB **Tel** 028 8224 3554 **Rooms** 3

Road map C2

Just on the outskirts of the town, this pleasant B&B is owned by a former chef, who will provide filling Irish breakfasts and packed lunches on request. Rooms are slightly small, but all have hair dryers and coffee-makers. The guest's lounge has a TV and VCR. www.fourwinds.org.uk

# PORTADOWN Cherryville Luxury House

Œ

180 Dungannon Rd, Co Armagh, BT62 1UR **Tel** 028 3885 2323 **Fax** 028 3885 2526 **Rooms** 3 **Road map** D2

Warm hospitality is assured at this large two-storey house, standing in its own grounds. Modern lines, fax and photocopier facilities are available. Bright, airy rooms are en suite, with TV and coffee-maker. Excellent and varied breakfasts brighten up the morning. www.cherryvillehouse.com

# PORTAFERRY Portaferry Hotel

11 1

££

The Strand, Co Down, BT22 1PE **Tel** 028 4272 8231 **Fax** 028 4272 8999 **Rooms** 14

Road map E2

This waterside inn on the Ards Peninsula overlooks Strangford Lough, in a designated conservation area. Many of the rooms have lovely water views and all are peaceful and pleasantly decorated. A wide range of activities are available locally. www.portaferryhotel.com

### **PORTRUSH Clarmont House**

E

10 Landsdowne Crescent, Co Antrim, BT56 8AY Tel 028 7082 2397 Rooms 10

Road map D1

A spacious period town house, with a beautiful white exterior, Clarmont House is located on the seafront. Panoramic views of the Skerries Islands and the Causeway coastline are the biggest draw. En suite betrooms come with TV and fluffy blankets. Booking early is recommended in this family-run place. www.clarmont.com

£ under £50

**₤**£ £50-£100

**₤**€£ £100-£150

**££££** £150-£200

**₤££ ©** over £200

# RESTAURANTS, CAFÉS AND PUBS

Although the highest concentration of top gourmet restaurants is in Ireland's main cities, equally fine cuisine can be found in some very unlikely, remote locations around the country. Good, plain cooking is on offer at moderately priced, family-style restaurants all over Ireland. The restaurants listed on pages 324-45 are

recommended for their high standards

of service, quality of food and value

Restaurant sign in Kinsale

for money. To supplement these listings, look out for the *Dining in Ireland* booklet published by Fáilte Ireland, the Irish Tourist Board. Pub lunches are one of Ireland's top travel bargains, offering generous portions of fresh vegetables and prime meats, and can often serve as the main meal of the

day for a very reasonable price. Light meals, bar food and a variety of takeout dishes are also widely available.

# IRISH EATING PATTERNS

Traditionally, the Irish have started the day with a huge breakfast: bacon, sausages, black pudding, eggs, tomatoes and brown bread. In Northern Ireland this, plus potato cakes and soda farls (see p322), is known as an "Ulster Fry". The main meal, dinner, was served at midday, with a lighter "tea" in the early evening.

Although continental breakfasts are now available, you will be hard-pressed to escape the traditional breakfast, which is included in most hotel and bed-and-breakfast rates. Increasingly, however, even the Irish settle for a light salad or soup and sandwiches at midday and save their main meal for the evening. Vestiges of the old eating patterns remain in the huge midday platefuls still served in pubs.



Enjoying breakfast at Adare Manor Hotel (see p307)



Arriving at a café in Kinvarra (see p212)

### TIPS ON EATING OUT

Elegant dining becomes considerably more affordable when you make lunch your main meal of the day. In many of the top restaurants, the fixed-price lunch and dinner menus offer much the same, but lunch will usually come to about half the price. House wines are quite drinkable in most restaurants and can reduce the total cost of your meal. If you are travelling with children, shop around for one of the many restaurants that provide a less expensive children's menu.

Lunch is usually served between noon and 2:30pm, with dinner between 6:30 and 10pm, although many ethnic and city-centre restaurants stay open later, particularly in Temple Bar. Bed-and-breakfast hosts will often provide an ample home-cooked evening meal, and many will serve tea and scones in the late evening at no extra charge.

In top restaurants, men are expected to wear a jacket, though not necessarily a tie, and women to wear a dress or suit. Elsewhere, the dress code is pretty informal, stopping short of bare chests and very short shorts.

Visa and MasterCard are the most commonly accepted credit cards. Fewer restaurants accept American Express and Diners Club, although many now accept debit cards. In rural areas, especially in small cafés and pubs, be prepared to pay with cash.

# GOURMET AND ETHNIC DINING

This once gourmet-poor land now sports restaurants that rank among Europe's very best, with chefs trained in outstanding domestic and continental institutions. There is a choice of Irish, French, Italian, Chinese, Indonesian and even Russian and Cuban cuisines, with styles ranging from traditional to regional to nouvelle cuisine. Locations vary as widely as the cuisine, from hotel dining rooms, town house basements and city mansions to castle hotels and tiny village cafés. The small County Cork town of Kinsale has established itself as the "Gourmet Capital of Ireland". Outstanding chefs also reign over the gracious houses listed in Ireland's Blue Book of Country Houses and Restaurants, available from tourist offices.

#### **BUDGET DINING**

It is quite possible to eat well on a small budget wherever you are in Ireland. In both city and rural locations, there are small cafés, tea rooms and family-style restaurants with inexpensive meals. Even if a café or tea room is at a main tourist attraction, such as Bantry House, you can still expect good, home-made food and freshly baked bread and cakes. Sandwiches are usually made with thick, tasty slices of cheese or meat (not processed); salad plates feature smoked salmon, chicken, ham, pork and beef; and hot meals usually come with large helpings of vegetables, with the beloved potato often showing up roast, boiled and mashed, all on one plate.

## **PUB FOOD**

Ireland's pubs have moved into the food field with a vengeance. In addition to bar snacks (soup, sandwiches and



CARTHYS

SANDWICHES

DEEP FRIED FISH

TEA COFFEE

Café sign at

Raltimore

SALADS

SALMON

SPRAT

STEAR

Selection of cakes served at Bantry House café (see pp168-9)

so on), available from noon until late, salads and hot meals are served from midday to 2:30pm. At rock-bottom prices,

hot plates all come heaped with mounds of fresh vegetables. potatoes in one or more versions, and good portions of local fish or meat. Particularly good bargains are the pub carveries that offer a choice of joints, sliced to your preference. In recent years, the international staples of spaghetti, lasagne and quiche have also appeared on pub menus. For a list of recommended pubs.



see pages 346-51.

The Irish, from peasant to parliamentarian, love their "chippers", immortalized in Roddy Doyle's novel *The Van*, and any good pub night will end with a visit to the nearest

fish-and-chip shop. At virtually any time of day, however, if you pass by Leo Burdock's in Dublin, there

will be a long queue for this international institution (*see p326*). With Ireland's long coastline, wherever you choose, the fish will usually be the freshest catch of the day – plaice, cod, haddock, whiting or ray (a delicacy). The many other fast-food outlets include a host of familiar international names, such as

McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken, as well as a wide variety of burger and kebab shops. Relatively new arrivals on the scene are several quite good pasta and pizza chains, such as Pizza Express and Milano.

## PICNICS

Ireland is glorious picnic country. Farmhouse cheeses and flavoursome tomatoes are picnic treats, or stop by one of the many small shops that offer sandwiches made with fresh local ingredients. As for where to picnic, the long, indented coast is ringed with sandy beaches and over 400 forest areas, many with picnic tables; great views add to the pleasure of mountainside picnics; and there are often places to pull off the road in scenic spots. Turn off a main road onto almost any lane and you will find a picnic spot by a lakeside, riverbank or the shady edge of a field.



Empty kegs outside a pub in Kinsale

## The Flavours of Ireland

Boxty, barm brack, champ, coddle, cruibins, colcannon – the basic dishes that have nourished Ireland are spiced with fancy names. But the secret of their success is their ingredients, which are nurtured in a warm, damp climate on lush hills that brings them flavour. Beef and dairy cattle can stay out all year and they make abundant butter, cheese and cream. Pork and pork products, such as ham and bacon, are a mainstay, though lamb is traditional, too. Potatoes, the king of vegetables, turn up in soup, pies, cakes, bread and scones that are piled on breakfast and tea tables. And the rivers, lakes and shores are rich in seafood.



A chef in Connemara displays traditional Irish cuisine

#### THE BASIC DISHES

Irish stews are thick and tasty, traditionally featuring lamb or mutton, onion and potatoes, while beef and Guinness make a darker casserole, sometimes with addition of oysters. Carrots and turnips are the first choice of vegetables for the pot. Pork is the basis of many dishes. Trotters, called cruibins or crubeens,

are sometimes pickled, while bacon can be especially meaty. Dublin coddle, a fill-me-up after the pub on a Saturday night, relies on sausages and potatoes as well as bacon. Ham is sometimes smoked over peat and, for special occasions, it is baked with cloves and brown sugar and served with buttered cabbage. Cabbage is the basis of colcannon, cooked and chopped with mashed potato and onions.

sometimes with the addition of butter and milk. Boxty is a bake of raw and cooked potato mashed with butter, buttermilk and flour; champ is potatoes mashed with milk, butter and onions.

#### **FISH AND SEAFOOD**

The Atlantic Ocean and Irish Sea have a rich variety of shellfish, from lobsters and Dublin Bay prawns to mussels and oysters,



Selection of the many traditional Irish breads

#### IRISH TRADITIONAL FOOD

Gubbeen cheese

If your heart is up to it, start the day with an Ulster Fry. This breakfast fry-up includes thick, tasty bacon, plus black pudding, soda farls and potato cake. A "lady's breakfast" will have one egg, a "gentleman's" two. Gooseberry jam will be spread on fried bread, and mugs of tea will wash it down. Irish stews traditionally use

mutton, not so common today, while Spiced Beef uses up brisket, which is covered in a various spices then left for a week before being cooked slowly with Guiness and vegetables. A high tea in the early evening is the major meal in many homes; a main course will be followed by a succession of breads and cakes.



Irish Stew Traditionally, neck of mutton, potatoes, carrots and onions are slowly cooked together for bours.



Delivery in time-honoured style at Moore Street Market, Dublin

scallops, clams and razorshells. Herring, mackerel, plaice and skate are brought in from the sea, while the rivers and lakes offer up salmon, trout and eels, which are often smoked. Galway salmon has the best reputation and its oyster festival is famous. Salmon is usually smoked in oak wood kilns. Along the shore, a red seaweed called dulse is collected and mixed with potatoes mashed in their skins to make dulse champ.

## **BAKED GOODS**

Bread and cakes make up a large percentage of the Irish diet. Unleaven soda bread is ubiquitous (it's great with Irish cheeses). In Northern Ireland, brown soda bread is called wheaten bread. Potato bread is fried or eaten cold, as cake.

Farls ("quarters") are made with wheat flour or oats, bicarbonate of soda and buttermilk, which goes into many recipes. Fruit breads include barm brack, traditionally eaten at Hallowe'en and on All Saint's Day, while rich



Sea trout, plucked fresh from the Atlantic Ocean

porter cake is made with Guinness or other stout. White, brown and fruit scones will never be far from tea and breakfast tables.

## DAIRY PRODUCTS

Butter, usually salted, is used generously, on vegetables and in sauces as well as in puddings and on bread. Cream, too, is used in cooking, stirred into soups and whipped for puddings. The variety and quality of Irish farmhouse cheeses is impressive, although a medium Cheddar produced by a large manufacturer was hailed "Best Irish Cheese" at the 2005 World Cheese Awards

#### **IRISH CHEESES**

Carrigaline Nutty-tasting, Gouda-like cheese from Cork.

Cashel Blue The only Irish blue cheese. Soft and creamy. Unpasteurized; from Tipperary.

**Cooleeny** Small, Camembertstyle unpasteurized cheese from Tipperary.

**Durrus** Creamy, natural-rind unpasteurized cheese from West Cork. May be smoked.

**Gubbeen** Semi-soft washed rind cheese. Rich, milky taste.

**Milleens** Soft, rich rind-washed cheese. Unpasteurized; from the Beara peninsula, Cork.

**St Killian** Hexagonal Brie-like creamy cheese from Wexford.



**Dublin Coddle** This is a comforting mixture of sausages, bacon, potatoes and onions, stewed in ham stock.



Galway Salmon Top quality fish can be simply served with an Irish butter sauce, watercress and colcannon.



Irish Coffee Pudding This is a chilled soufflé of coffee, cream and Irish whiskey, topped with crushed walnuts.

# Choosing a Restaurant

These restaurants have been selected for their good value, food and location. They are listed by region, starting with Dublin, and then by price. Price bands for Northern Ireland are given on pages 343 and 345. Map references refer either to the Dublin Street Finder on pp116-17, or the road map on the inside back cover.

#### **PRICE CATEGORIES**

For a three-course meal for one, half a bottle of wine, and all extra charges These categories are for the Republic, where the euro is accepted.

€ under 25 euros €€ 25–35 euros **€€€** 35–50 euros €€€ € 50-70 euros €€€€ over 70 euros

## DUBLIN

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Cornucopia

大も

19 Wicklow St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 677 7583

Map D3

Small and often crowded, Cornucopia is one of the few exclusively vegetarian restaurants in the city, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. This melting pot of bookworm bachelors and earthy students serves delicious, cheap, wholesome food. The menu includes salads, soups, pastas, casseroles and quiches.

#### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Kilkenny Restaurant & Café

Map E4

6-10 Nassau St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 677 7075

Situated on the first floor of a high-quality craft shop, the Kilkenny overlooks the grounds of Trinity College. Wholesome, freshly-prepared soups, sandwiches, panini, salads, quiches, hot casseroles and pies are available in this selfservice restaurant. Lovely desserts include baked cheesecake, carrot cake and fruit tarts. Prices are reasonable.

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Nude

Map D3

21 Suffolk St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 672 5577

Bono's brother, Paul Hewson, has created a very successful hip and intimate restaurant, which serves freshly prepared food, organic where possible. Soups, panini, wraps, salads and freshly-squeezed juices are ordered at the counter. Take a seat at the long wooden tables and enjoy these colourful snacks in an upbeat atmosphere.

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Steps of Rome

1 Chatham St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 670 5630

Map D4

This tiny Italian café, selling great coffee, is invariably abuzz with people coming and going to collect tasty slices of pizza. The reasonably priced menu includes pastas and bruschetta. Service is brisk, if a little brusque. Popular with students and fast-moving shoppers pausing for breath. Open all day and into the evening.

#### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Avoca Café

\* 6

€€

11-13 Avoca Café, Dublin 2 Tel 01 672 6019

Climb to the top floor of the renowned Irish craft shop, Avoca, and be rewarded with creative, wholesome and colourful cooking in a bright and airy room. The queues get lengthier during peak lunch hour. Such popularity is testament to the delicious salads, panini, hot dishes and wonderful desserts. Open daytime only.

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Café Bar Deli

€)€

18 South Great George's St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 677 1646

Map C4

Vibrant and modestly priced, Café Bar Deli is decorated in a European café style, with bentwood chairs and a mahogany and brass interior. Imaginative and colourful menus feature pizzas, pastas, salads. Service is prompt and enthusiastic. Particularly popular with 20- and 30-somethings. Wines, beer and stout are served.

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Dunne & Cresenzi

(€)(€)

14 South Frederick St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 677 3815

Map E4

This delightful Italian wine bar or enoteca serves authentic food and wine in a stylishly rustic atmosphere. Enjoy the excellent minestrone, antipasti platters, bruschetta, panini, pasta, delicious fruit tartlets and excellent coffee. There's a superb collection of wines, also served by the glass. Open all day and into the evening.

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Gotham Café

(€)(€)

8 South Anne St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 679 5266

Map D4

This lively and colourful spot is always abuzz. Offering bistro-style food at affordable prices, and with covers of Rolling Stone lining the walls, it is popular with the young and young-at-heart. Known for tasty and imaginative pizzas, it also serves pastas and salads.

#### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN La Maison des Gourmets

占重

€)€ Map D4

15 Castle Market, Dublin 2 Tel 01 672 7258

This smart boulangerie has a stylish and intimate room upstairs, where high-quality snacks are served. French onion soup, home-baked breads, tartines (open gourmet sandwiches), salads, a hot special and delicious pastries are on the menu. Takeaway is available from the downstairs shop. In fine weather, sit outside and watch the world go by.

### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Bang Café

€€€

11 Merrion Row, Dublin 2 Tel 01 676 0898

Map E5

Across the road from the Shelbourne Hotel, this hip restaurant is the essence of stylish minimalism, reflected in its food as well as the decor of natural tones and dark wood furnishings. Contemporary cuisine includes good fish dishes, mouthwatering scallops and excellent bangers and mash. Service is professional.

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Ely Winebar & Café

€€€

22 Ely Place, Dublin 2 Tel 01 676 8986

Map E5

The basement of a Georgian house, just off St Stephen's Green, has been stylishly converted into an excellent wine bar. Choose exceptional wines from the imaginative menu. The menu features cheese dishes, fish cakes, Kilkee oysters, lamb stew and home-made sausages. The atmosphere is cosy and lively.

#### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Good World Chinese Restaurant

€€€

18 South Great George's St. Dublin 2 Tel 01 677 5373

Map C4

This restaurant's popularity with the Chinese community attests to the good quality of food on offer. The dim sum selection is a popular choice. Authentic beef, chicken and fish dishes are served, along with the standard Westernized dishes. Friendly and efficient service.

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Pearl Brasserie

€€€

20 Merrion St Upper, Dublin 2 Tel 01 661 3572

Map D4

This basement brasserie exudes a cool, contemporary French ethos. It combines charming service with good food at affordable prices. Seafood features prominently. The separate Oyster Bar offers lighter fare, including a fish platter. The impressive wine list is heavy on French wines. Lunch is particularly good value.

#### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Peploe's Wine Bistro

**x € © © ©** 

16 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 Tel 01 676 3144

Map D4

Located in the basement of a Georgian building, this is a glamorous, cosy and immensely popular restaurant.

Always rushed, due to the high-quality and consistently good food. It provides an extensive wine list – over 30 are served by the glass. Book in advance.

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Trocadero

**₹** ©©©

3-4 Andrew St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 677 5545

Map D3

This much-loved restaurant has been in operation since 1956. A haunt of actors and the literati, it has deep-red walls lined with black-and-white images of the notables who have passed through its doors. Traditional classics include rack of lamb, steak, Dublin Bay prawns and tempting desserts. Service is intimate and welcoming.

#### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Unicorn

ista

12B Merrion Court, Dublin 2 **Tel** 01 676 2182

**©©©®** Map E4

Situated around St Stephen's Green, Unicorn has maintained an excellent standard since it opened in 1938. Its cauda atmosphere is unparalleled and is enhanced by the friendly staff. The Italian-Mediterranean food served here is delicious and the veal is particularly appetizing.

### **SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Yamamori Noodles**

**† € € € €** 

71 South Great George's St. Dublin 2 Tel 01 475 5001

Map C4

Very popular with the young crowd, this lively and informal Japanese restaurant specializes in Yamamori ramen (a noodle dish with meat and vegetables), sushi and sashimi. Try the interesting bento box for variety. Dishes are good value, service is prompt and the atmosphere is friendly. Evenings are very busy. Open for lunch and dinner.

#### SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Browne's Brasserie

**₹ ©©©©** 

22 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 Tel 01 638 3939

Map D4

The award-winning restaurant of the stylish Browne's Hotel (see p295) has a wonderfully romantic atmosphere. Elegantly furnished with antiques, it is warm and welcoming with a friendly staff. Good French cooking is backed up by delicious desserts.

## **SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Dobbins Wine Bistro**

方も

15 Stephen's Lane, Dublin 2 Tel 01 661 3321

**©©©©** *Map F5* 

Popular since 1978, this cheerful bistro has a warm and pleasing ambience, with red-and-white checkered tablecloths and the floor scattered with sawdust. Given the good wine list, it is a popular spot for a leisurely liquid lunch. Menu includes smoked fish cakes and prime sirloin of beef.

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Jaipur

41–46 South Great George's St, Dublin 2 **Tel** 01 677 0999

Map C4

Often acclaimed as the best Indian restaurant in the city, Jaipur offers high-quality, innovative dishes. The decor, stylish with a contemporary feel, is done up in warm, tasteful colours. It is superbly managed by a well-informed and charming staff. Vegetarians are well catered for. Branches have now opened in Malahide and Dalkey.

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN La Stampa

**Map** D4

35 Dawson St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 677 4444

iviap L

The brasserie-style La Stampa's main attraction is its dining room, perhaps the most romantic in the city, set in a charming 19th-century mirrored ballroom. Given its modest quality, the food is rather pricey. However, the pleasing ambience and cordial staff more than make up for any mediocrity.

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN L'Ecrivain

XEE €€€€€

Map F5

109a Lower Baggot St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 661 1919

One of the best restaurants in the city, L'Ecrivain combines classic formality with contemporary cool. Authentic French cuisine with an Irish flavour includes delicacies such as Galway Bay oysters with vanilla-champagne sabayon and caviar. Seasonal game and seafood as well as tasty desserts and cheeses also figure on the menu. Service is great.

## SOUTHEAST DUBLIN Shanahan's on the Green

119 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 Tel 01 407 0939

 $\mathbb{E}$  $\mathbb{E}$  $\mathbb{E}$  $\mathbb{E}$ Map D5

The most succulent steaks in Dublin are to be found in this renowned steakhouse, set in an elegantly furnished Georgian house. Though steeply priced, the food is consistently of the highest quality and the portions gargantuan. Skip starters, if you hope to finish your main. Seafood, too, is available at this superbly managed establishment.

#### SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Leo Burdock's

國大

2 Werburgh St, Dublin 8 Tel 01 454 0306

The patrons of Leo Burdock's, the oldest fish-and-chip takeaway in Dublin, include the ordinary folk of Dublin and the stars. Fresh fish and chips made from top-grade Irish potatoes. There's a wide choice of fish including scampi, smoked cod, haddock and lemon sole goujon. Service is efficient. There's another branch on Liffey Street.

#### SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Queen of Tarts

国人

4 Cork Hill, Dame St. Dublin 2 Tel 01 670 7499

Opposite Dublin Castle and Dublin City Hall, this charming little café is cosy and welcoming. Apart from freshly prepared soups, sandwiches and hot savoury tarts, there's a dazzling array of mouthwatering desserts such as chocolate fudge cake, fruit tarts and home-made biscuits. Ideal for a quick and reasonably priced snack.

## **SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Gruel**

国色

68a Dame St. Dublin 2 Tel 01 670 7119

Map C

This tiny, quirky café blends the rustic with the innovative in its light snacks, soups and hot specials. The roast in the roll is delicious and a firm favourite among the colourful patrons. Good pizzas and tasty sweet dishes make it an ideal spot for a guick bite at affordable prices. Eat in or take away.

### SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Eden

大田

€ E E Мар СЗ

Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 2 Tel 01 670 5372

With an outside terrace on the Square, this split-level restaurant is bright and modern in design, with cool-blue tiled walls and an open kitchen. It is known for its sirloin steaks, cleverly-contrived fish dishes and imaginative use of seasonal vegetables. Weekend brunch menu features smoked fish for starters. The early-evening menu is good value

## **SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Elephant & Castle**

€€€

18 Temple Bar, Dublin 2 Tel 01 679 3121

Map D3

Very lively and ever popular, this American-style brasserie, in the heart of Temple Bar, is invariably busy. Have the mouthwatering chicken wings to start. Good omelettes, steaks, hamburgers and salads are available at affordable prices. Weekend brunches are also popular. Telephone bookings are not accepted.

#### SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Lord Edward

€€€

23 Christchurch Place, Dublin 8 Tel 01 454 2420

Map B4

The oldest seafood restaurant in the city, Lord Edward is located above a cosy and traditional pub, which serves lunch downstairs. It has changed little over the years and maintains an old-fashioned feel. Long-established waiters are known for their charming service.

## SOUTHWEST DUBLIN The Mermaid Café

k.

69-70 Dame St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 670 8236

€ E

A bright contemporary restaurant, with large windows, wooden furniture and floors, The Mermaid Café is a firm favourite for weekend brunches. There's an ambience of the American East Coast, which is also evident in specialities such as New England crab cakes. There's a creative use of high-quality Irish artisan produce. Lively in the evenings.

## SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Monty's of Kathmandu

€€€ Map C3

28 Eustace St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 670 4911

This friendly Nepalese restaurant serves tasty and interesting fish, chicken and lamb dishes at affordable prices. Vegetarians are well catered for. Try the dumplings or the tandoori butter chicken in a deliciously creamy sauce. Upstairs is more cheerful than the basement dining room. Service is good and the atmosphere relaxed.

## **SOUTHWEST DUBLIN Les Frères Jacques**

\* 6

€€€€

74 Dame St, Dublin 2 Tel 01 679 4555

Map C3

This elegant restaurant is French in style, cuisine, atmosphere and service. Seafood and game feature prominently on the well-balanced seasonal menus. Try the grilled lobster fresh from the tank or the roast lamb tian (casserole) with courgette, aubergine and thyme. Classic desserts are on the menu. Good wine list favours French bottles.

## SOUTHWEST DUBLIN The Tea Room

€€€€€ Мар СЗ

The Clarence Hotel, 6-8 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2 Tel 01 407 0800

Come in by the Essex Street entrance, opposite the Project Theatre, and savour excellent cuisine served in this stylish dining room. High ceilings and large windows create a bright and airy atmosphere. Menus are innovative and seasonal. Lunch menu is particularly good value. Food is of a very high standard and service attentive.

## NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Epicurean Food Hall

国景层

Lower Liffey St, Dublin 1

This food hall comprises a number of outlets serving a range of international light meals and snacks. There's a bustling communal dining area in the centre, or take away and enjoy on a seat on the boardwalk overlooking the Liffey. Itsabagel's snacks, Burdock's fish and chips, as well as Turkish, Italian and Mexican cuisines are on offer.

## NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Kingfisher Grill

大雨

166 Parnell St. Dublin 1 Tel 01 872 8732

Modestly decorated but immaculately maintained, Kingfisher Grill is a no-frills diner. Prompt service and cheap prices make it a good spot for the simple dishes many of us miss. Potato wedges and prawn cocktail are popular starters. Finish with jelly or ice cream.

## NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Panem

國大

Ha'penny Bridge House, 21 Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin 1 Tel 01 872 8510

Map C3

This tiny café and bakery offers freshly prepared Italian and French food, using high-quality ingredients. The menu includes delicious croissants and focaccia with savoury fillings, sweet brioches with chocolate, home-baked biscuits and good coffee. The mouthwatering hot chocolate is made from dark Belgian chocolate. Nice staff.

#### NORTH OF THE LIFFEY The Winding Stair

40 Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin 1 Tel 01 873 3292

Map D3

With views of the Ha'penny Bridge and the River Liffey, this bright and informal café is located on several floors above a delightful little bookshop. Soups, freshly prepared sandwiches and home-cooked desserts are reasonably priced. With a friendly and easy-going ambience, the place is popular with students and bookworms.

#### NORTH OF THE LIFFEY 101 Talbot

€)€

100-102 Talbot St, Dublin 1 Tel 01 874 5011

Map E2

Mediterranean style is reflected in the decor as much as the cuisine at 101 Talbot, livening up the rather drab street on which it is located. The early-bird menu is good value and attracts many theatre-goers. Vegetarians are spoilt for choice. Dietary needs may be met.

## NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Stillroom Restaurant

Old Jameson Distillery, Bow St, Dublin 1 Tel 01 807 2248

Map A2

This restaurant is a part of the Old Jameson Distillery, which lies on the site of the original 18th-century distillery. At lunch time the legal eagles from the nearby Courts swoop in here, to savour the comfort food on offer. Traditional dishes include a daily roast as well as delicious sandwiches and soups.

## NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Bar Italia

大色雨

€€€

Quartier Bloom, Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin 1 Tel 01 874 1000

Map (3

The popular Bar Italia, specializing in Italian fare, is a hive of activity around lunch time, when patrons stream in for freshly prepared antipasti, risotto, grilled vegetables or the pasta specials. Desserts are also an attraction, as is the excellent espresso.

## NORTH OF THE LIFFEY D.One Restaurant

€€€

大もま

IFSC, North Wall Quay, Dublin 1 Tel 01 856 1622 Map F2 Built at the very edge of the River Liffey, D.One Restaurant has a lovely waterside location. It is decorated in a clean, contemporary style with large views to take advantage of its position. Traditional dishes are given a modern twist. Try the fish and chips. The early dinner is good value.

#### NORTH OF THE LIFFEY Chapter One

÷

€€€€

18-19 Parnell Sq, Dublin 1 Tel 01 873 2266

Map C1

In the cellar of the Dublin Writers' Museum, Chapter One is often cited by critics as the best restaurant north of the Liffey. Relish the imaginative European cuisine, with an Irish twist, in a dining room of character and comfort. The pre-theatre menu is a favourite among regulars who frequent the nearby Gate theatre. There's a good Oyster Bar.

## **FURTHER AFIELD Abbey Tavern**

× 6

€€€

Abbey St, Howth, Co Dublin Tel 01 839 0282

Open fires, linen-clad tables, fresh flowers and a slightly old-fashioned atmosphere define this restaurant on the first floor of a characteristic pub. Good, uncomplicated fish and meat dishes are served. The traditional cabaret evening downstairs, featuring set dinners, is popular with visitors.

## FURTHER AFIELD Beaufield Mews Restaurant, Gardens & Antiques

\* 6

€€€

Woodlands Ave, Stillorgan, Co Dublin Tel 01 288 0375

One of County Dublin's oldest restaurant, Beaufield Mews is beautifully set in an 18th-century cobbled courtyard with a rose garden to the rear. Good modern European food is served in an elegant dining room decorated with Irish art and antiques. An inviting atmosphere prevails throughout.

## **FURTHER AFIELD Aqua Restaurant**

€€€

1 West Pier, Howth, Co Dublin Tel 01 832 0690

This first-floor restaurant, with lovely views over the sea and harbour, was formerly a yacht club, now converted into a bright contemporary space. Prominent on the menu are steaks as well as fresh fish and chicken dishes. The cuisine betrays a Californian-Ítalian influence. Set menus are good value. Sunday brunch is accompanied by live jazz.

## FURTHER AFIELD Bon Appetit

市长

€€€

9 St James Terrace, Malahide, Co Dublin Tel 01 845 0314

Situated in the basement of a Georgian terrace, this well-respected restaurant is inviting, with its warm colours, art collection and excellent seafood. Try the fresh prawn bisque with cognac, the Sole Creation McGuirk and the roast crispy duckling in Grand Marnier sauce. Desserts are equally tempting. Book in advance.

#### FURTHER AFIELD Brasserie Na Mara

É

€€€

1 Harbour Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin Tel 01 280 6767

Conveniently located beside the harbour, ferry terminal and DART station, the welcoming Brasserie Na Mara is housed in a graceful period building. Stylish contemporary decor features large windows, linen-clad tables and fresh flowers. Seafood is a speciality. Home-made desserts are lovely.

## **FURTHER AFIELD Caviston's Seafood Restaurant**

太

**©©©** 

59 Glasthule Road, Dun Laoghaire, Sandycove, Co Dublin **Tel** 01 280 9120

Stunning seafood, prepared with simple flair. Sadly, this culinary cult address is only open for lunch. Book early and reserve the last sitting so that you can enjoy a leisurely afternoon lingering over coffee and dessert. The adjoining delicatessen sells delicious fare great for a picnic.

#### FURTHER AFIELD Expresso Bar Café

大と無

€€€

1 St Mary's Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 660 0585

This small restaurant is decorated in a contemporary, minimalist style. Open from breakfast time, it is popular for lunch and weekend brunches. The Californian-Italian fare, featuring chicken and fish dishes, salads and pastas, uses high-quality ingredients. The delicious bread-and-butter pudding makes a perfect dessert. Service could be friendlier.

#### FURTHER AFIELD The Forty Foot

六点

€€€

Pavilion Centre, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin Tel 01 284 2982

After a walk on the pier, relax in this very modern upstairs restaurant to watch the day fade over Dublin Bay. The views are the main attraction, but the food is also appealing. Try the *tian* of crab and salmon with creme fraiche. Pleasant and competent staff.

### FURTHER AFIELD Johnnie Fox's Pub

大月雨

€€€

Glencullen, Co Dublin Tel 01 295 5647

About 30 minutes' drive south of the city, on the way up to the Dublin mountains, this friendly pub has traditional Irish food, open fires, traditional music and dancing. Pan-seared scallops, dressed crab salad, smoked salmon, sirloin steak are on the menu. The "Hooley Night", featuring dinner and a traditional show, attracts overseas visitors.

#### **FURTHER AFIELD Nosh**

大点赤

€€€

111 Coliemore Rd, Dalkey, Co Dublin Tel 01 284 0666

In the heart of Dalkey village, Nosh is contemporary in style, with light wood furniture. Well-balanced menus feature good fish and vegetarian dishes a well as succulent steaks. Cod and chips, pea and asparagus risotto, seared scallops are also on the menu. Home-made desserts are good. The weekend brunch menu is very popular.

#### **FURTHER AFIELD Roly's Bistro**

E

€€€

7 Ballsbridge Terrace, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 668 2611

In the heart of Ballsbridge, this lively, bustling bistro offers reliable, colourful and delicious food. Try the Kerry lamb pie or the Dublin Bay prawns Provençal. Other specialities include fish and game dishes and succulent steaks. Sit upstairs if possible. Take home the delicious home-made breads which are on sale. Reservations are advised.

## FURTHER AFIELD King Sitric Fish Restaurant & Accommodation

**元** 

€€€€

East Pier, Howth, Co Dublin Tel 01 832 5235

Named after the medieval Norse king of Dublin, this restaurant is acclaimed for good seafood and game. The dining room is stylishly modern, with scenic views. Specialities are crab bisque, Balscadden Bay lobster, black sole meunière and fillet steak with forest mushrooms. Excellent wine cellar.

#### **FURTHER AFIELD The Lobster Pot**

元

**©©©©** 

9 Ballsbridge Terrace, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 Tel 01 668 0025

This long-established upstairs restaurant deservedly commands a loyal following. High-quality food is well presented by professional, charming waiters. Specialities feature dressed Kilmore crab, Dublin Bay prawns in Provençal sauce, generously-sized sole on the bone, delicious steaks, chicken and game dishes.

## SOUTHEAST IRELAND

## **BALLYMACARBRY Hanora's Cottage**

6 =

€€€

Nire Valley, Co Waterford Tel 052 36134

Road map C5

Hanora's Cottage is a celebrated family-run riverside restaurant, drawing patrons across long distances. The Walls are charming hosts and excellent cooks. The cosy dining room, overlooking lovely gardens, has won many awards and showcases local artisan produce where possible. Try the delicious roast rack of lamb. Reservations advised.

## **BALLYMORE EUSTACE The Ballymore Inn**

大も月雨

Ballymore Eustace, Co Kildare Tel 045 864 585

Road map D4

Run by the O'Sullivan family, The Ballymore Inn has garnered a wonderful reputation for producing consistently good food. Ingredients, organic as much as possible, are carefully sourced. Home-made soups are served with home-baked breads. Regulars on the menu are sirloin steak with Béarnaise sauce, pastas and fish.

## **BLESSINGTON Grangecon Café**

大台田

The Old Schoolhouse, Kilbride Rd, Co Wicklow Tel 045 857 892

Road map D4

Set in a lovingly restored building in the centre of Blessington, this tastefully decorated café is a delightful spot to visit. Good, honest and wholesome cooking features salads, quiches, savoury tarts, sandwiches on home-made bread, delicious farmhouse cheese and chutneys. Organic juices as well as home-baked desserts are available.

## **CAMPILE The Georgian Tea Rooms**

Great Island, Co Wexford Tel 051 388 109

Road map D5

Located in Kilmokea Country Manor & Gardens, a charming Georgian house set in its own magnificent gardens, the Georgian Tea Rooms offer delicious home-made fare and light lunches in the bright and spacious conservatory. Views over the walled garden and on to the River Barrow and beyond. Open 10am-5pm.

### CARLOW Lennon's Café Bar

大も月雨

121 Tullow St. Co Carlow Tel 059 913 1575

Road map D4

Contemporary in design, this daytime café bar is expertly run by the Byrnes who offer keenly-priced wholesome food. Try the delicious home-made soups such as the Cashel Blue and bacon and courgette, open sandwiches on home-baked breads, gorgeous salads and a selection of hot dishes. Don't miss the lovely home-made desserts.

## CARLOW Reddy's

大と手

67 Tullow St, Co Carlow Tel 059 914 2224

Road map D4

This restaurant and bar has been in the Reddy family since 1768. Traditional Irish food is prepared with an international flair, using day-fresh ingredients. The Reddy family and their staff are warm and friendly. A wide range of steak and fish dishes feature on the menu.

## CARNE The Lobster Pot Seafood Bar Carne, Near Rosslare, Co Wexford Tel 053 31110

Road map D5

The Lobster Pot, an award-winning seafood bar, is housed in a well-maintained 19th-century building. Home cooking and warm rural hospitality create a relaxing atmosphere. The restaurant is famed for its ultra-fresh fish, including a delicious chowder, crab-meat salad and smoked salmon platter.

## CASTLEDERMOT De Lacy's Restaurant

大とほ

€€€€

Castledermot, Co Kildare Tel 059 914 5156

Road map D4

De Lacy's is housed in Kilkea Castle Hotel, a sensitively modernized 12th-century building that still maintains its grandeur. Inside, it is elegantly furnished with linen-draped tables, candles and fresh flowers, with fabulous views over the surrounding countryside. Try the pan-fried fillet of pork. Food is available in the bar all day and evening.

## **DUNGARVAN** The Tannery Restaurant

方も

**EEE** 

10 Quay St, Co Waterford Tel 058 45420

Road map C5

The superbly designed, award-winning Tannery Restaurant is located in an old leather warehouse, which has been ingeniously converted with great flair and imagination. High-quality furnishings, artwork and fresh flowers complement the outstanding and highly innovative contemporary cuisine, creating a memorable meal.

#### **ENNISKERRY Poppies Restaurant**

The Square, Co Wicklow Tel 01 282 8869

Road map D4

This small café restaurant is a cosy and vibrant place, serving good country cooking at reasonable prices. Try the leek and blue cheese tart or the beef and Guinness pie. Other dishes include, soups, sandwiches, salads and baked potatoes. Desserts are worth savouring. Vegetarians are well catered for. Open daily until 6pm.

## **GOREY Marlfield House**

大島麻

€€€€

Courtown Rd, Co Wexford Tel 055 21124

Road map D4

Possibly the best in the region, this wonderfully romantic dining room is elegantly furnished and runs into a stunning conservatory. Enjoy the excellent cooking in a warm and welcoming ambience. Organically grown vegetables come from the garden. There's an extensive wine list. Staff are well-informed and personable. Reservations advised.

## **GREYSTONES** The Hungry Monk Church Rd, Co Wicklow Tel 01 287 5759

€€€€ Road map D4

This delightful first-floor restaurant is well-established and regarded as a sure-bet for food, wine and good fun. The theme of cheerful robed monks is apparent throughout. It has possibly the best wine list in the country. Favourite dishes include lamb's kidneys in mustard sauce as well as locally-caught seafood specials.

## KILDARE The Silken Thomas

市も

The Square, Co Kildare Tel 045 522 232

Road map D4

Named after an extravagantly dressed Lord of Kildare who led an uprising against Henry VIII, this purpose-built establishment houses three bars, a restaurant and a nightclub. The main lounge bar serves food from 11am to 9pm. The restaurant offers a carvery lunch and evening meals.

## KILKENNY Kilkenny Design Centre

× 6

Castle Yard, Co Kilkenny Tel 056 772 2118

Road map C4

This bright, self-service restaurant overlooks the cobbled courtyard of Kilkenny Castle. Freshly prepared wholesome soups, salads, sandwiches, quiches, hot dishes and casseroles are offered at reasonable prices. Tasty desserts include apple crumble, carrot cake and banana bread. Wine and locally brewed ale is also served. Open 10am–7pm.

#### KILKENNY Marble City Bar

€)€ Road map C4

66 High St, Co Kilkenny Tel 056 776 1143

Stylishly refurbished in recent years, this historic bar retains great character and a lively atmosphere. European-style bar food, including breakfast, is served all day from 10am, when the good breakfast menu is on offer. Cod in a beer batter with chips, Thai fish cakes and home-made burgers with cheese, bacon and relish are on the menu.

## KILKENNY Zuni

大島電

26 Patrick St. Co Kilkenny Tel 056 772 3999

Road map C4

Also offering stylish accommodation, Zuni has become a by-word for contemporary chic and superb food in this delightful medieval town. The cuisine is worldly in style, with influences from Morocco to Southeast Asia. A welldesigned restaurant, it has great atmosphere and tasteful furnishings. Try the tasty risottos, salads and pastas.

#### KILMACANOGUE Avoca Café

大人意

Kilmacanogue, Co Wicklow Tel 01 286 7466

Road map D4

Set in the grounds of the old Jameson (of whiskey fame) estate and surrounded by lovely gardens, this awardwinning restaurant is in the headquarters of the renowned craft shop, Avoca. Wholesome country cooking, with a Mediterranean twist, includes casseroles, salads, vegetarian lasagne, freshly baked breads and home-baked desserts.

#### KILMACOW The Thatch

大も月雨

Grannagh Castle, Co Waterford Tel 051 872 876

Road map D5

This cosy thatched pub is located opposite the lovely Grannagh Castle. Owner David Ryan offers good freshly prepared bar food. Soups, open sandwiches, salads, panini, omelettes are on offer. Hot dishes include a hearty Irish mixed grill, featuring bacon, egg, sausage, black pudding, potato cake and French fries.

### LEIGHLINBRIDGE Lord Bagenal Inn

Leighlinbridge, Co Kilkenny Tel 059 972 1668

Road map D4

Housed in a well-established family-run hotel, on the banks of the River Barrow, this bright riverside restaurant offers classical and traditional dishes with a contemporary twist. There's an award-winning wine list. Popular carvery lunch is served in the bar

## LISMORE Barça Wine Bar & Restaurant

大と雨

€€€

Main St. Co Waterford Tel 058 53810

Road map C5

This smart tapas bar, in the heart of Lismore, is truly a delight. A stylish contemporary stamp has been put on the interior of the bar, which retains many of its charming traditional features. Tapas dishes include smoked duck with raspberry vinaigrette and walnuts, and chorizo croquettes with caramelized onions.

#### ROUNDWOOD The Roundwood Inn

大も

€€

Roundwood, Co Wicklow Tel 01 281 8107

Road map D4

In Roundwood, supposedly Ireland's highest village, this 17th-century inn is a good stopping-off point after a walk in the Wicklow Hills. Its slightly formal restaurant, with a welcoming open fire and traditional furnishings, serves excellent bar food all day. Menu includes crab bisque, smoked salmon, Irish stew and smoked trout.

## **THOMASTOWN Hudson's**

大も

Station Rd, Co Kilkenny Tel 056 779 3900

Road map D5

Hip Hudson's has become a huge hit on the culinary scene, serving wonderful contemporary cooking in a smart and comfortable dining room. Specialities include crab spring rolls with a soya butter sauce; Barbary duck with figs and balsamic dressing. Service is attentive. The daytime "branch" is Carroll's, a traditional pub offering lunch daily.

## THOMASTOWN The Lady Helen

Mount Juliet Conrad Hotel, Co Kilkenny Tel 056 777 3000

Enjoy classic cuisine in a very elegant, high-ceilinged room with beautiful views over the gardens, which provide fresh vegetables and herbs. Wild salmon from the nearby River Nore and chicken breast with fennel stuffing in a tomato and red pepper sauce are real treats. Reservations advised. The adjacent Kendal's restaurant is less formal.

## TRAMORE Coast

大麻

**€€** Road map D5

Upper Branch Rd. Co Waterford Tel 051 393 646 The smart, contemporary Coast is one of the most talked-about restaurants in the region. Chic and stylish, with classy furnishings, it exudes an upbeat atmosphere, complemented by excellent food. The main course, served with seasonal vegetables, features fish and meat dishes. The wine list is somewhat pricey.

## WATERFORD The Gingerman

**未** 

6-7 Arundel Lane, Co Waterford Tel 051 879 522

Road map D5

Located in the Norman part of the city, this pub is to be found in a pedestrianized lane, just off Broad Street. Welcoming fires and friendly staff make this an enjoyable spot for daytime food. Reasonably priced menu features home-made soup, sandwiches, panini and baked potatoes. Tasty hot dishes and daily specials are also on the menu.

Key to Price Guide see p324 Key to Symbols see back cover flap

### WATERFORD Bodega!

54 John St. Co Waterford Tel 051 844 177

大月

**©©© Road map** D5

The exclamation mark in the title hints at the vibrant atmosphere of this popular eatery. Inside, it is cheerfully decorated in heart-warming colours, with wooden tables and ever-changing artwork. Lunch dishes include soups, fish pies and a variety of specials. Dinner menu features fresh foie gras, steaks and sea bass.

#### WATERFORD The Wine Vault

X 6

€€€

High St. Co Waterford Tel 051 853 444

Road map D5

Over a decade in business, this intimate wine bar and restaurant is set in an 18th-century bonded warehouse and wine vault. There's a superb selection of wines. Open for lunch and dinner, it serves appetizing and keenly priced fare including fresh oysters, linguini, risotto of fresh asparagus, chicken curry, steaks and pizzas. Service is efficient.

### WATERFORD Fitzpatrick's Restaurant

木も

Manor Court Lodge, Cork Rd, Co Waterford Tel 051 378 851

Road map D5

In a listed stone building on the outskirts of the city, this bright and colourful fine-dining restaurant is reputed for its classical cuisine with a French influence. Linen-clad tables with fresh flowers and candles create a welcoming atmosphere. Try the roasted sea bass. Staff are courteous and attentive. Reservations are recommended.

## **WEXFORD** Westgate Design

76

€)

22a North Main St, Co Wexford Tel 053 23787

Road map D5

Located at the back of the design and craft shop, Westgate Design is a daytime restaurant, well managed and very popular. It serves good home cooking at keen prices, in a cosy room simply decorated in a rustic style. Quiches, salads, sandwiches and soups are on offer as well as a selection of hot dishes. Service is prompt and friendly.

## **CORK AND KERRY**

### **BALLYCOTTON Grapefruit Moon**

**★** ©©€

Main St, Co Cork Tel 021 464 6646

Road map C6

This wonderful little restaurant boasts an impressive minimalism, blending neutral tones, fresh flowers, contemporary paintings and comfortable leather chairs. Innovative cooking is refreshingly original and seasonal, showcasing locally caught fish from Ballycotton Bay, and carefully sourced meats and poultry.

### **BALLYDEHOB Annie's Restaurant**

木も

€€€

Main St, Co Cork Tel 028 37292

Road map B6

The ever-popular Annie's Restaurant has been extended to accommodate demand. Have an apéritif in Levi's Bar nearby. Wholesome home cooking uses fresh seafood, local meats and duck. Choose from the West Cork farmhouse cheeses, home-made breads, desserts and ice creams. Annie is a charming host, Dano a conscientious chef.

## **BALTIMORE** Chez Youen

χÉ

The Waterfront, Co Cork Tel 028 20136

©©©©© Road map 86

Established since 1979, Youen Jacob's restaurant has quite a following of regulars and visitors following warm recommendations. Seafood is the star attraction and the dishes are beautifully presented. The Shellfish Platter is a delight and a work of art in itself. Try the turbot in a black butter sauce. There's an excellent wine list.

#### **BANDON Otto's Creative Catering**

€€€

Dunworley, Butlerstown, Co Cork Tel 023 40461

Road map B6

Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, this incredible enterprise is gaining a formidable reputation. Otto and Hilda Kunze oversee the grassland and gardens where they rear hens and pigs and grow organic crops. The farmhouse is delightful. Menu features salad with roasted pheasant, barbecued pork chops and local seafood. Reservations only.

## BANTRY O'Connor's Seafood Restaurant

×

€€€

The Square, Co Cork Tel 027 50221

Road map 86

Situated in the heart of the town, this long-running restaurant serves lunch and dinner and specializes in seafood. Also on the menu are fine fillet steaks, local mountain lamb, chicken and game. Mussels are a particular speciality. Live lobsters and oysters in a fresh seawater tank are indicative of the freshness of the produce.

#### **BANTRY Blair's Cove House & Restaurant**

Durrus, near Bantry, Co Cork Tel 027 61127

Road map Be

This waterside restaurant enjoys a stunningly romantic setting, overlooking Dunmanus Bay. The main candlelit dining room has great character with its stone walls and black-beamed ceilings, chandelier and grand piano. The superb hors d'oeuvre buffet is a star feature.

## **BANTRY Sea View House Hotel**

X L ... © © © © ©

Ballylickey, Co Cork Tel 027 50462

Road map B6

The elegant restaurant of the four-star country-house hotel, which overlooks Bantry Bay, is furnished with antiques and fresh flowers. It specializes in country-house cooking, with a particular focus on seafood. Try the Bantry Bay crab salad or roast rack of lamb with rosemary. Classic desserts include summer berries, mousses and tiramisü.

#### BLARNEY Blair's Inn

占月末

€€€

Cloghroe, Co Cork Tel 021 438 1470

Road map 85

Immaculately maintained and very inviting, this pretty whitewashed riverside pub has hanging flower baskets and a lovely garden outside. Inside, open fires and a charming interior are complemented by reliably good food. Traditional dishes include casserole of beef and stout; baked lemon sole stuffed with crab meat in a white butter sauce.

#### CASTLETOWNSHEND Mary Ann's Bar

Castletownshend, Skibbereen, Co Cork Tel 028 36146

A landmark restaurant in the heart of a picturesque village, the bar dates back to 1846 and retains a cosy and unique character. The welcoming charm is most appealing. Consistently superb food is the real draw. Seafood specialities include exquisite platters, chowders, crab claws, pan-fried brill. There's also an excellent cheeseboard.

## CORK Crawford Gallery Café

\* 6

Emmet Place, Co Cork Tel 021 427 4415

Road map C5

Located in the old Customs House, the Crawford Municipal Art Gallery is home to one of the city's best daytime eateries. Managed by the grandson of Myrtle Allen, of the famed Ballymaloe House (see 303), Crawford Gallery Café is a bright and delightful spot to enjoy freshly prepared country house cooking and excellent home-baked desserts.

#### CORK Farmgate Café

大月

€€

The English Market, Co Cork Tel 021 427 8134

Road map C5

Farmgate Café is located upstairs in the gallery over the bustling English Market, from where many of the ingredients are sourced. It's a lively restaurant, split between a self-service section and the restaurant proper. Wooden tables and black-and-white tiles create a down-to-earth yet stylish ambience. Honest home cooking is the main draw.

#### **CORK Isaacs Restaurant**

48 MacCurtain St, Co Cork Tel 021 450 3805

Road map C5

Housed in an 18th-century red-bricked warehouse, this informal, yet stylish, restaurant provides reliably good bistrostyle cooking. The fairly-priced menu features baked cod, bruschetta with wild mushrooms and roast peppers. Wine list is extensive and descriptive. Friendly and efficient service.

#### **CORK The Ivory Tower**

€€€

The Exchange Buildings, 35 Prince's St, Co Cork Tel 021 427 4665

Road map C5

One of Ireland's most creative chefs, Seamus O'Connell, sources the best-quality ingredients, all organic, creating unusual and delicious combinations of flavours and produce. The Crozier cheese soufflé served in an artichoke is a favourite signature dish, as is the aphrodisiac of tropical fruits.

## **CORK The Pembroke**

\* 6

€€€

Imperial Hotel, South Mall, Co Cork Tel 021 427 4040

Road map C5

The Pembroke is a modern restaurant located in the Imperial Hotel. Traditional Irish food is served in the recently refurbished dining room. A comprehensive wine list supports the à la carte menu. Try the jumbo prawns and crispy duck. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### CORK Jacobs on the Mall

30a South Mall, Co Cork Tel 021 425 1530

大も

**©©©©** Road map C5

This highly acclaimed restaurant, with one of the country's leading chefs, is set in the former Turkish baths. Decorated in a charming contemporary style, it has a unique ambience. Creative and colourful dishes include scallops and crab cakes with mango salad and a hot-and-sour dressing. Home-made ice creams are irresistible.

#### **CORK Café Paradiso**

16 Lancaster Quay, Western Rd, Co Cork Tel 021 427 7939

Road map C5

Undoubtedly the best vegetarian restaurant in Ireland, Café Paradiso attracts even the most committed carnivores. The ever-changing seasonal menus are radically imaginative and consistently good. Cheerfully decorated in a contemporary and eclectic style, its intimate atmosphere is lively and welcoming. Desserts are exquisite.

## **DINGLE The Chart House**

大点

€€€

The Mall, Co Kerry Tel 066 915 2255

Road map A5

This award-winning restaurant is informal in style with exposed stone walls, warm colours and wooden floors. Ebullient and attentive hosts create a welcoming atmosphere. High-quality ingredients are used to outstanding effect. Classic dishes include roast fillet of cod with fennel risotto; and Kerry lamb with red onion and feta.

## DINGLE The Half Door

大と

€€€

John St, Co Kerry Tel 066 915 1600

Road map A5

Decorated in a pretty cottage style, this charming little restaurant is well known for a good, seasonal seafood menu. Try the seafood platter which is available either hot or cold and features crab claws, lobster, oysters, mussels, scallops and prawns. There are tasty desserts and a good selection of farmhouse cheeses. Portions are generous.

## **DINGLE Lord Baker's Restaurant & Bar**

Main St, Co Kerry Tel 066 915 1277

Road map A5

Believed to be the oldest bar in Dingle, this welcoming hostelry, with an open fire, serves delicious bar food such as home-made soups, crab claws in garlic butter and smoked salmon and capers. The restaurant is more formal. Specialities include excellent roast duckling, poached wild Atlantic salmon and grilled lobster.

#### DINGLE Out of the Blue

Waterside, Co Kerry Tel 066 915 0811

€€€ Road map A5

Interestingly named, this restaurant and deli serves the freshest of fish. The decor is uncluttered and the food excellent. Try the John Dory with garlic eggplant, sole on the bone with almond cream or langoustines in a sweet chilli sauce. The lobster is well priced. There's a well-assembled wine list.

#### **DURRUS Good Things Café**

大島語

€€€

Ahakista Rd, Co Cork Tel 027 61426

Road map 86

This intimate café-restaurant has created a real stir among Irish foodies since it opened in 2003. Its menu has been described as reading like a roadmap of the region's acclaimed artisan producers. Specialities include West Cork fish soup and smoked haddock with Desmond cheese. Open April to September, but it's worth calling to check.

Road map B5

KENMARE The Purple Heather Henry St, Co Kerry Tel 064 41016

A traditional bar and restaurant, The Purple Heather is the daytime branch of nearby Packies. It was one of the first to establish Kenmare as a culinary town. Consistently good home-cooked food features soups, pâtés, breads and desserts. Also on the menu are lovely seafood salads, smoked salmon and open sandwiches with crab meat.

## KENMARE The Lime Tree Restaurant

€€€

Shelburne St, Co Kerry Tel 064 41225

Road map 85

Though this charming stone building dates from the 1830s, its unique character is retained throughout. With an open fire and upstairs contemporary art gallery, it enjoys a special atmosphere. Excellent local seafood, roast Kerry lamb and delicious desserts are served by a friendly and competent staff. Open Easter to October.

#### KENMARE Mulcahy's

€€€

36 Henry St, Co Kerry Tel 064 42383

Road map 85

Bruce Mulcahy is one of Ireland's leading young chefs, whose experience and imagination attract not only locals and visitors, but other chefs and restauranteurs as well. The room is decorated in a tasteful contemporary style and exudes a friendly and intimate ambience. The selections of pasta, fish and meat dishes use organic ingredients.

## KENMARE Packie's

Henry St, Co Kerry Tel 064 41508

Road map 85

This well-established and highly regarded restaurant enjoys a devoted following of regulars and return visitors. The emphasis is on local seafood and organic produce, yet Mediterranean and contemporary flavours also find their way into the imaginative cooking. The red onion tart with Cashel Blue cheese is a treat. Welcoming ambience.

### **KILLARNEY Panis Angelicus**

Road map 85

€)

15 New St, Co Kerry Tel 064 39648

An inviting little café, Panis Angelicus promises delicious home cooking, in a stylish contemporary setting. Don't miss the tasty gourmet sandwiches, home-made soup or hot Irish potato cake with garlic butter. Home-baked breads and biscuits are also available. Ideal for a lunch-time pit stop, it serves dinner on the weekend in summer.

## KILLARNEY The Cooperage

\* 6

€€€

Old Market Lane, Co Kerry Tel 064 37716

Road map 85

This very appealing contemporary restaurant is furnished in a well-designed minimalist style, creating a warm and welcoming ambience. It promises reliably good food, which has been carefully sourced and prepared with great flair. Try the crispy duck with sweet fruit sauce topped with onions and fried leeks.

#### KILLARNEY Old Presbytery

大も

€€€

Cathedral Place, Co Kerry Tel 064 30555

Road map B5

Set in a beautifully restored Georgian house, Old Presbytery is the leading fine-dining restaurant in the area. Dining rooms exude contemporary elegance and the ambience is welcoming. Dishes include sole meunière, braised Kerry lamb shank, warm and melting chocolate cake. Service is charming.

## KILLARNEY Gaby's Seafood Restaurant

\* 6

€€€€

27 High St, Co Kerry Tel 064 32519

Road map B5

A member of the World Master Chefs Society and one of Ireland's longest established seafood restaurants, Gaby's reputedly offers the best seafood in town. Cooking is imaginative and of a high standard with a carefully chosen wine list. A real treat is the lobster "Gabv" with cognac and cream. Desserts are exquisite.

## KILLORGLIN Nick's Seafood Restaurant & Piano Bar

€€€€

Lower Bridge St, Co Kerry Tel 066 976 1219

Road map A5

Renowned for its succulent meats as much as its seafood, this is one of Ireland's much-loved restaurants. Formerly a butcher, Nick Foley ensures that only the best cuts of meat reach the table. Intimate ambience prevails, with open fires and an accompanying pianist. Try the Lobster Thermidor or the peppered steak in a brandy cream sauce.

## KINSALE Fishy Fishy Café

€€ Road map B6

Guardwell, Co Cork Tel 021 477 4453

This outstanding delicatessen, fishmonger and café is renowned for the freshness of its fare and the ingeniously simple manner of preparation. Informal in atmosphere, it is immensely popular and queues can be long, as there is a no-reservations policy. The scampi with potato wedges, tartare sauce and pesto is tempting.

## KINSALE Man Friday

R

€€€

Scilly, Co Cork Tel 021 477 2260

Road map B6

The oldest restaurant in Kinsale, Man Friday is nationally regarded for its excellent cuisine, unique atmosphere and friendly service. A recipient of numerous awards, it comprises a number of adjoining rooms of character and a garden terrace, lovely on a summer's evening. There's a great choice of comfort food and a superb seafood platter.

## KINSALE Max's Wine Bar

**©©**€

48 Main St, Co Cork Tel 021 477 2443

Road map B6

For three decades, this bustling wine bar and eatery has been in the forefront of Kinsale's gourmet restaurants. Offering light lunches, early-evening meals and full dinner menus, it is a charming little spot, with great character. Wooden tables, exposed stone walls and a small conservatory add to its charm.

## KINSALE Casino House

大と手

Road map 86

Set in a lovely, welcoming old building, Casino House is considered to be one of the region's best restaurants. Fresh local seafood and Ballydehob duck feature prominently in an extensive and original menu. Try the lobster risotto or the roast breast of duck served on a lentil potato cake with a honey and port sauce. Desserts are superb.

#### **LEAP All Things Nice**

**未** 

€

Main St, Co Cork Tel 028 34772

Road map B6

A pretty café and delicatessen in the centre of the village, All Things Nice is worth a stop for its excellent home baking. Plate of Irish and international cheeses, such as Gubeen and Durrus, olive salami and freshly baked bread are on the menu. Try the delicious sandwiches and home-made ice cream and organic milk shakes.

#### LISTOWEL Allo's Restaurant, Bar & Bistro

Coolmain Bay, Kilbrittain, Co Cork Tel 023 49944

**大** 康

€€€€

41-43 Church St, Co Kerry Tel 068 22880

Road map B5

This charming bar, dating back to 1859, is traditionally furnished and has a wonderful character and welcoming atmosphere. Successfully combining traditional with modern Irish cooking, Armel Whyte serves consistently good and heartening meals. Try the Dover sole with caper and herb butter or the fillet of Irish beef in puff pastry.

## MALLOW Presidents' Restaurant

¥8 ©©©©©

Road map 85

Longueville House, Co Cork **Tel** 022 47156

Noau map by

Portraits of Irish presidents line the walls of this elegant dining room, which opens into a beautiful Victorian Turner conservatory, making it one of the most romantic restaurants in the country. Much of the fresh produce, which is expertly prepared and presented, comes from the farm on the estate.

#### MITCHELSTOWN O'Callaghan's Café & Delicatessen

大も重

E

19-20 Lower Cork St, Co Cork Tel 025 24657

Road map C5

In the heart of the busy market town, this café offers delicious quiches, panini, sandwiches, soups, tasty focaccia bread with melted cheese and char-grilled vegetables. Fish kebabs and garlic mussels are good. Home-baked breads, house preserves and chutneys are also available for sale. Eat in or take away. Service is warm.

#### MOLL'S GAP Avoca Handweavers

大

€€

Moll's Gap, Co Kerry Tel 064 34720

Road map 85

Spectacularly located on a high rocky ridge overlooking the mountain lakes of Killarney, the restaurant within the high-quality craft shop, is a good stop-over point. Wholesome home cooking is on offer, from soups and freshly prepared salads to hot dishes and appetizing home-baked desserts. Open daytime, from March to October.

## MONKSTOWN The Bosun

& RTH

€€€€

The Pier, Co Cork Tel 021 484 2172

Road map B5

On the banks of the River Lee, this well-known bar and restaurant serves tempting seafood. Main attractions include baked garlic mussels, stuffed fillet of trout, medallions of monkfish and wild smoked salmon. For meat-eaters, the menu offers fillet steaks, lamb cutlets and venison sausages. Tasty desserts are well worth trying.

## SHANAGARRY Ballymaloe House

**\* € € € € €** 

Shanagarry, Midleton, Co Cork Tel 021 465 2531

Road map C6

This nationally renowned culinary institution is acclaimed for excellent country-house cooking, served in elegant interconnecting dining rooms. Much of the produce is organically grown in the walled garden. Seven-course dinner menu is imaginatively conceived and expertly realized. There's a well-known cookery school on site.

# TRALEE Restaurant David Norris Ny House, Ny Terrace, Co Kerry Tel 066 718 5654

Road map 85

Located on the first floor of a modern building, this highly acclaimed fine-dining restaurant is tastefully furnished with Art Nouveau-style chairs and linen-clad tables set with fresh flowers. Great attention has been paid to detail. There's a well-chosen wine list. The menu of perfectly executed classic dishes, such as Kerry beef, changes every so often.

## YOUGHAL Ahernes Seafood Restaurant & Townhouse

ALE COCO

163 North Main St, Co Cork Tel 024 92424

Road map C5

This award-winning seafood restaurant, now in the hands of the third generation of the Fitzgibbon family, spells warm hospitality and relaxing atmosphere. Savour the finest fish from the day's catch in Youghal harbour, locally reared beef and lamb, seasonal vegetables as well as home-baked breads and delicious desserts.

### THE LOWER SHANNON

### ADARE The Wild Geese Restaurant

€€€

Rose Cottage, Main St, Co Limerick Tel 061 396451

Road map B5

Housed in a beautiful cottage in the picture-postcard village of Adare, this seafood restaurant has garnered an award-winning reputation for its fine dining, extensive wine list and friendly service. All products are sourced locally and where possible, organically grown. Mains include ravioli of lobster and pan-fried scallops. Superb desserts.

#### BALLINDERRY Brocka-on-the-Water Restaurant

**276 ©©©©** 

Kilgarvan Quay, Co Tipperary Tel 067 22038

Road map C4

A long-standing family affair, the highly respected Brocka-on-the-Water is particularly gorgeous on a fine day. Its open fires, tasteful furnishings, imaginative cuisine and warm hospitality make this immaculately maintained restaurant a perennial favourite. Seasonal menus are exceptionally good. Book in advance.

#### BALLINGARRY The Mustard Seed at Echo Lodge

**7 & €€€€** 

Ballingarry, Co Limerick Tel 069 68508

Road map 85

Set in a Victorian residence, The Mustard Seed is one of the prettiest restaurants in the country. It is renowned for impressive service and excellent cooking. The menu, a mix of classical and modern Irish cuisine, prominently features local fillet of beef and pan-fried sea bass. The charming hosts create a warm atmosphere.

#### BALLYVAUGHAN Holywell Italian Café

大き流

€€

Liscannor, Co Clare Tel 065 707 7322

Road map B4

Also a language school and guesthouse, this charming café is open for lunch and dinner. Dark woods and warm colours enhance the elegant decor of this intimate place, serving excellent vegetarian cuisine. The menu features soups, salads, bruschetta, pasta dishes and pizza. Delicious home-made ice cream is worth trying.

## BIRDHILL Matt the Thresher Pub & Restaurant

<del>\*</del> **€**€

Birdhill, Co Tipperary Tel 061 379 227

Road map C4

This traditional country pub, on the main Dublin-Limerick road, is a frequent stopping-off point for travellers. Food is served through the day into the evening. Fresh scampi, chicken and mushroom pie, fillet steaks and monkfish goujons are a good step up from regular bar food.

## **BUNRATTY Durty Nelly's**

大も月 重

€€

Bunratty, Co Clare Tel 061 364861

Road map B4

Beside Bunratty Castle, this long-standing pub is always busy and often over-crowded with tourists during the summer. Nevertheless, it retains some character with its traditional decor. The bar serves informal food all day, while the Oyster Restaurant offers lunch and dinner. The Loft Restaurant upstairs serves evening meals.

#### **CAHIR Cahir House Hotel**

えも月 重

€€€

Cahir House Hotel, The Square, Co Tipperary Tel 052 42727

Road map C5

Cahir House Hotel is a hub of social and economic activity in the area. The Butler's Pantry, a cheerfully decorated restaurant, specializes in traditional Irish cooking, using fresh local produce. The sirloin steak and baked fillet of salmon are particularly good. Open for dinner.

# CAHIR Gannon's above the Bell Pearse St, Co Tipperary Tel 052 45911

**₹ €€€** 

Road map C5

Regarded as the best restaurant in town, this split-level dining room has plenty of character, evident in its exposed stone walls and white linen tablecloths. The imaginative modern Irish cooking has a hint of the East. Meat is sourced from nearby Ballybrado organic farm. Excellent freshly baked breads. Informal bar food is available downstairs.

#### **CARRON Burren Perfumery Tea Rooms**

大島福

Carron, Co Clare **Tel** 065 708 9102

Road map B4

Ireland's first perfumery, set up over 30 years ago, is a family-run enterprise with an organic herb garden, distillation room and shop. The simple and pretty tearooms offer excellent home-made soups, quiches, sandwiches. Fresh juices as well as traditional home-baked cakes and scones are also available. Open May to October.

## CASHEL Café Hans

河方色

- -

Moore Lane, Co Tipperary Tel 062 63660

Koad map C5

A sister of the celebrated Chez Hans restaurant, this tiny contemporary café is one of the best in the county. For those travelling from Dublin to Cork, it provides an ideal break point on a road with a dearth of good eateries. Choose from a variety of delicious salads, open sandwiches, hot dishes and celebrated home-made French fries.

## **CASHEL Chez Hans Restaurant**

**★ 6 6 6 6** 

Moore Lane, Co Tipperary Tel 062 61177

Road map C5

Since 1968, patrons have been travelling from all over the county to savour the excellent cooking here. Housed in a converted church, it has become a veritable temple for food-lovers. Dishes showcase succulent Tipperary beef and lamb. Sole on the bone is particularly good. The early-bird dinner is good value. Reservations advised.

## **CLONMEL Angela's Restaurant**

रें के कि

14 Abbey St, Co Tipperary Tel 052 26899

Road map C5

This centrally located daytime restaurant is ideal for tasty and wholesome food. Baking is a speciality. Home-made desserts include plum tart and bread-and-butter pudding. Sample the delicious quiches, grilled bruschetta, or heartwarming casseroles. Vegetarians are well catered for. Service is efficient and friendly.

#### **CLONMEL Clifford's Restaurant**

大も月雨

€€€

29 Thomas St, Co Tipperary Tel 052 70677

Road map C5

Housed in a well-preserved stone building, this is probably the best restaurant in town. Tastefully decorated, with fine art and awards lining the walls. Family-grown organic produce and carefully sourced meats. Gâteau of Clonakilty black pudding, meat casseroles and fish dishes are on the menu. Marvellous desserts and cheeses.

#### **CROOM Croom Mills**

**米** 康

Croom, Co Limerick Tel 061 397130

Road map B4

This sensitively restored stone mill house comprises a craft shop, pub and bistro. Overlooking a giant cast-iron millwheel, the bistro is open for lunch and serves traditional Irish fare. Daily roasts are on the menu. Chicken in mustard sauce is a speciality.

#### DOOLIN Cullinan's Seafood Restaurant and Guest House

Doolin Co Clare Tel 065 707 4183

Road map B4

Overlooking the River Aille, this cheerfully decorated and popular restaurant specializes in locally caught seafood and is reasonably priced. Mains include pan-seared scallops, roast loin of Burren lamb, pan-fried John Dory and Doolin crabmeat. Lovely desserts include cardamon brulée. Friendly and efficient team.

#### ENNIS Town Hall Café

市台  $\mathbb{E} \mathbb{E} \mathbb{E} \mathbb{E}$ 

O'Connell St, Co Clare Tel 065 682 8127

Road map B4

Situated in the well-restored town hall, adjacent to the Old Ground Hotel, this elegant café offers informal, bistrostyle cooking. Open for lunch and dinner, it serves fillet of beef with grain mustard, sea bass with couscous and roast rack of lamb. Desserts include Bailey's parfait and hazelnut brownies. Service is efficient.

## KILLALOE Cherry Tree Restaurant

大も

Lakeside, Ballina, Co Clare Tel 061 375688

Road map C4

This delightful waterside purpose-built restaurant, with an impressive and colourful interior, has a reputation for outstanding contemporary cooking. One of the best in the region, it uses carefully sourced local ingredients. Specialities include wild sea bass with lobster tortellini and butter roasted fillet of beef. Desserts are luscious.

#### LAHINCH Barrtra Seafood Restaurant

2 Cornmarket Row, Co Limerick Tel 061 313620

€€€

Lahinch, Co Clare Tel 065 708 1280

Road map B4

A few miles south of Lahinch, this whitewashed house overlooking Liscannor Bay boasts a superb and longestablished award-winning restaurant. It is decorated in a simple cottage style, with lovely sea views from the window tables. Food is of a consistently good standard. Try the delicious lobster. Wonderful hospitality.

#### LIMERICK Copper and Spice

76

€€

Road map B4

The stylish Copper and Spice is decorated in a bright contemporary style and offers an interesting and extensive menu, featuring Indian and Thai cuisine, with the former being more authentic. Combination platters are popular, with an opportunity to taste meat samosa, dim sum and chicken satay. Vegetarians are well catered for

#### LIMERICK Green Onion Restaurant

χ

€)€

Old Town Hall, Rutland Street, Co Limerick Tel 061 400710

Road map B4

This lively split-level eatery is contemporary and eclectic in style, with bistro style table settings and friendly, competent staff. The good-value menu offers sandwiches made to order, salads, soups and some pasta dishes. Specialities include baked goat's cheese with walnut topping, chargrilled lamb noisette and tasty desserts.

### LIMERICK Brûlées Restaurant

€€€

Corner of Henry St & Mallow St, Co Limerick Tel 061 319931

Road map B4

Though the exterior is somewhat unremarkable, this intimate restaurant is tastefully furnished inside. Imaginative menu, using locally sourced ingredients, including fresh seafood. Freshly baked bread and home-made desserts are also worth trying. Lunch menus are particularly good value. Friendly and efficient service.

## **NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS Earl of Thomond Restaurant**

REF COCC

Dromoland Castle, Co Clare Tel 061 368144

Road map B4

Excellent for fine dining, this elegant room is opulently decorated with rich fabrics and chandeliers and enjoys views over the nearby lake. A traditional Irish harpist accompanies evening meals, which are either six courses or à la carte. Try the pan-fried fillet of sea-bass with mussel risotto. Light lunch is available on Sundays. 大台月雨

## TERRYGLASS The Derg Inn

Terryglass, Co Tipperary Tel 067 22037

Road map C4

A short stroll from the harbour, this superb gastro-pub is a favourite among boating enthusiasts and locals. The menu offers traditional Irish fare such as beef and Guinness pie, home-made patés and Tipperary rack of lamb. Try the succulent fresh fish, caught on nearby Lough Derg. In summer, enjoy live music on weekends.

## THE WEST OF IRELAND

## ACHILL ISLAND The Beehive Coffee & Craft Shop

大 も 示

€)

(€)(€)

Keel, Co Mayo Tel 098 43018

Road map A3

Overlooking Keel Beach, this informal, self-service daytime restaurant and craft shop offers high-quality home-made food such as heart-warming soups, seafood chowder and home-baked brown scones. Sandwiches, farmhouse cheese plate, as well as a lovely selection of traditional cakes, tea-bracks and fruit tarts, are also made in-house.

#### ACHILL ISLAND Ferndale Restaurant & Guest Accommodation

7 6

Crumpaun, Keel, Co Mayo Tel 098 43908

Road map A3

Ferndale Restaurant and Guest Accommodation enjoys a lovely location on an elevated site above the village. The restaurant commands sweeping views of the sea and island. The menu exhibits a range of international influences, from the Mongolian barbecue to more traditional dishes.

#### **BALLINA Gaughan's**

大も

€)

O'Rahilly St, Co Mayo Tel 096 70096

Road map B2

In the same family since 1936, this immaculately maintained traditional pub has a charming character and an oldworld feel. Old-fashioned cooking includes hot roasts, such as baked ham and roast chicken, as well as fish pies, meat loaves, wild salmon and fresh crab meat. Lighter snacks available include open sandwiches and soups.

## **BALLYCASTLE Mary's Cottage Kitchen**

国大ら正

€

Main St, Co Mayo Tel 096 43361

Road map B2

In the centre of the village, this charming restaurant offers domestic cooking in a warm atmosphere, with an open fire. On the menu are home-made soups, sandwiches and fresh salads as well as a selection of hot dishes. Try the delicious quiches, particularly the traditional bacon and cheese flavour. Good home-baked bread and desserts.

## BARNA O'Grady's on the Pier

Cleggan, Co Galway Tel 095 44640

€€€

Seapoint, Barna, Co Galway **Tel** 091 592223

Road map 84

Commanding wonderful views across the sea to the distant mountains, O'Grady's is renowned for simply prepared, high-quality seafood. Tastefully blending the contemporary with charming traditional features of the house, it enjoys a cosy atmosphere. The superb seafood platter is immensely popular.

## **CLEGGAN Oliver's Bar**

末も月ま

**©©©® Road map** A3

Situated overlooking the working pier and the harbour where boats leave for Inishbofin, Oliver's Bar is very popular with locals and island day-trippers for its ultra-fresh seafood – served all day and into the evening. The menu offers squid, wild smoked salmon, chowder, open crab-meat sandwiches, oysters, steaks, as well as the day's catch.

## CLIFDEN Ardagh Hotel & Restaurant

RI

**(€)(€)** 

Ballyconneely Rd, Co Galway Tel 095 21384

Road map A3

This award-winning restaurant, situated on the first floor of the hotel, has lovely views of the sea, particularly at sunset. The modern dining room is pleasantly furnished and welcoming, with linen tablecloths, candles, fresh flowers and an open fire. On the menu are lobsters from the on-site sea tank, locally caught seafood and prime meats.

## CLIFDEN Mitchell's Restaurant Market St, Co Galway Tel 095 21867

\* ©©©

Road map A3

The delightful family-run Mitchell's Restaurant offers consistently good food in a very warm and friendly atmosphere. Exposed stone walls and a fireplace give it a lovely, welcoming character. Keenly priced menus offer tasty home cooking, such as seafood chowder, excellent crab-meat salad, home-made brown bread and Irish stew.

#### **CONG The Connaught Room**

TE COCCO

Ashford Castle, Co Mayo Tel 094 954 6003

Road map B3

One of Ireland's most beautiful dining rooms, with woodcarvings and magnificent fireplaces, the Connaught Room serves excellent classic French cuisine with an Irish twist, such as Cleggan lobster and Connemara lamb. Exquisite desserts include hot lemon soufflé. The surprise seven-course tasting menu is a real treat. Open May to September.

## GALWAY Goya's Coffee Shop

& ITA

•

2–3 Kirwan's Lane, Co Galway Tel 091 567010

Road map 84

This contemporary corner café and bakery is open during the day and is a lively spot. Elegantly decorated, it offers home-made soups, pâtés, salads, toasted sandwiches, as well as hot speciality dishes such as chicken, leek and mushroom pie. It is known for its wonderful home baking. Don't miss the traditional porter cake.

## GALWAY McDonagh's Seafood Bar

大ら

€€

22 Quay St, Co Galway Tel 091 565001

Road map B4

This renowned Galway institution is a must for anyone seeking delicious high-quality traditional fish and chips and super-fresh seafood. Situated on the most lively and atmospheric streets of the city, it comprises a takeaway section with wooden benches and tables on one side and an intimate and colourful restaurant on the other.

## GALWAY Kirwan's Lane Restaurant

\* =

€€€

Kirwan's Lane, Co Galway Tel 091 568266

Road map B4

Located in an appealing stone building, the restaurant is contemporary in decor and cuisine. The tasteful furnishings exude a warm and friendly ambience. Menus display clear Asian influences and offer bistro-style dishes. The Oriental crispy duck salad is a popular favourite, as are the seared scallops.

#### **GALWAY The Park Room Restaurant**

大点

€€€

Park House Hotel, Co Galway Tel 091 564924

Road map B4

Located within the pleasant Park House hotel, this restaurant offers Irish and international cuisine of a very good standard. Linen-clad tablecloths and fresh flowers create a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Sample dishes include pan-fried fillet of John Dory and ostrich fillet with garlic potato grilled shallot. Just off Eyre Square.

### INIS OIRR Mermaid's Garden

国大も市

€€

Castle Village, Co Galway **Tel** 099 75062

A two-storey house with outside tables during the si

Road map B4

A two-storey house with outside tables during the summer, Mermaid's Garden has lovely views over the sea toward the Clare Coast. Delicious home cooking uses organically home-grown food. Try the seafood platter of island crab cakes or the roast mackerel with rhubarb sauce. Mouthwatering desserts are not be missed. Peaceful atmosphere.

#### **INISHMORE** Aran Fisherman Restaurant

€€

Kilronan, Co Galway Tel 099 61104

Road map B4

In the heart of Kilronan village, the family-run Aran Fisherman Restaurant is a short walk from the pier. It specializes in locally caught seafood, organic vegetables, meat and poultry dishes and home baking. There's also a children's menu. Enjoy traditional Irish music and the song and dance show during the summer months. Very warm hospitality.

## INISHMORE Dun Aonghasa

大らま

€€€

Kilronan, Co Galway Tel 099 61104

Road map B4

Set high above Kileaney Bay, Dun Aonghasa is a new restaurant with an impeccable interior. The food served here is imaginatively prepared, using traditional island recipes. Besides fish, the menu also includes meat and poultry creations. The spectacular view of the bay is an add-on.

### KILCOLGAN Moran's Oyster Cottage

大と手

€€€

The Weir, Kilcolgan, near Clarinbridge, Co Galway **Tel** 091 796113

Road map 84

Now in the seventh generation of the Moran family, this seafood restaurant specializes in oysters. The original picturesque thatched cottage, with a simple decor, has been extended to accommodate a larger clientele. Menu features crab, lobster, dressed prawns, wild smoked salmon, garlic crab claws and mussels.

## KINVARRA The Pier Head Bar & Restaurant

<del>X</del> <del>G</del> €€

The Quay, Co Galway Tel 091 638188

Road map 84

Located in the harbour of this scenic fishing village, The Pier looks out over Kinvara Bay and Dunguaire Castle. It is the best restaurant in the area where seafood is the main attraction. Warm colours exude a friendly atmosphere. Lobster is a speciality and so is prime fillet steak. Live music is often played here.

# LEENANE Blackberry Café Leenane, Co Galway Tel 095 42240

πė

Road map B3

Situated at Killary Harbour, this charming little café and restaurant offers lovely home cooking during the summer months from noon until 9pm. Home-made soups, sandwiches, panini, fresh oysters, smoked salmon, traditional Irish stew, seafood salads. Finish with a delicious dessert such as the rhubarb tart.

### LETTERFRACK Kylemore Abbey Restaurant

**大** & 击

€€

Kylemore, Co Galway Tel 095 41455

Road map A3

This self-service restaurant is set in the grounds of Kylemore Abbey, which enjoy a stunning mountainside setting, overlooking a peaceful lake. The industrious Benedictine nuns run a girls' boarding school, garden, craft shop as well as this popular self-service eatery. Good wholesome cooking includes soups, sandwiches, casseroles and quiches.

#### LETTERFRACK Pangur Bán Restaurant

\* 6

€€€

Letterfrack, Co Galway Tel 095 41243

Road map A3

The elegant Pangur Bán is housed in a beautifully restored 300-year-old stone cottage. Good home cooking with influences from the Orient make for an interesting and imaginative menu. Try the char-grilled breast of chicken with black pudding on garlic and wasabi mash with tomato jus. Advanced booking advised.

## MOYCULLEN Moycullen House

占月

€€€

Moycullen, Co Galway **Tel** 091 555621 **Road map** B4

Only 10 minutes from Galway city, this 1890s house overlooks Lough Corrib. The restaurant is simply furnished with dark-wood tables and exposed stone walls. Specialities include pan-fried venison with caramelized onions in a light

jus; vegetarian tartlet with smoked cheese and sweet pepper sauce. Warm hospitality and good service.

## **OUGHTERARD** The Yew Tree

沙人

**€** 

Main St, Oughterard, Co Galway Tel 091 866986

Road map B3

Delicious home-baked treats are the hallmark of this wonderful bakery and small restaurant, in the heart of the village. Open gourmet sandwiches, soups, quiches, wraps are available. Superb breads include Norwegian rye, Swiss, Irish soda and focaccia. Try the lemon sponge cake, chocolate muffins and ginger cake. A great stopping-off point.

Key to Price Guide see p324 Key to Symbols see back cover flap

#### **PORTUMNA Castlegates Restaurant**

€€€

Shannon Oaks Hotel, Co Galway Tel 090 974 1777

Road map C4

The bright Castlegates Restaurant serves evening meals in its warmly coloured dining hall. Its menu comprises classic and fusion dishes using finest local produce, fish and meats. The bar serves a carvery lunch and informal food during the day. In summer, the nearby River Shannon keeps the place pleasantly breezy.

#### **ROSCOMMON Gleeson's Restaurant & Townhouse**

大き雨

Market Sq, Co Roscommon Tel 090 662 6954

Road map C3

This well-restored 19th-century house overlooks the historic town square. The café and restaurant offer delicious home cooking in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Try the roast cod with Welsh rarebit topping on a bed of tomato and basil served with sauce vierge or a succulent steak. Open 8am to 9pm Mon-Thu; 8am-10pm Fri-Sat.

#### ROUNDSTONE O'Dowd's Seafood Bar & Restaurant

€€€

Roundstone, Co Galway Tel 095 35809

Road map A3

In business since 1906, O'Dowd's has a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with its wood panelled walls and open fires. Bar food is served until 9:30pm. The slightly more formal restaurant is traditionally furnished and serves good seafood - chowder, fresh oysters, hot buttered lobster, mussels, home-made chicken and mushroom pie.

#### WESTPORT McCormack's at The Andrew Stone Gallery

Bridge St, Co Mayo Tel 098 25619

Road map B3

McCormack's butcher shop has been in operation since 1847 and is now in the sixth generation of the family. Upstairs lies this daytime, simply decorated restaurant. Family recipes are used for the home-made dishes such as seafood chowder, savoury tarts and meat casseroles. Sample the mouthwatering home-baked desserts.

#### WESTPORT The Lemon Peel

The Octagon, Co Mayo Tel 098 26929

Road map B3

This lively, modern bistro-style restaurant serves popular contemporary dishes. The no-frills decor creates a warm atmosphere, complemented by a pleasant staff. Start with baked crab, Cajun blackened shrimp or Caesar salad. Follow with traditional roast duck in Grand Marnier. Great desserts. The early-bird menu is very good value.

## NORTHWEST IRELAND

## ANNAGRY Danny Minnie's Restaurant

€€€

Teach Killindarragh, Co Donegal Tel 074 954 8201

Road map C1

A romantic candlelit dinner can be had in this elegant restaurant, housed in a luxurious family-owned B&B in the heart of the Gaelic-speaking Gaeltacht. Danny Minnie's is beautifully decorated with hanging prints, tapestries and paintings, and there are two fireplaces. Seafood and Irish meats figure heavily on the menu.

## **BALLYSHANNON Smuggler's Creek**

大麻

€€€

Rosnowlagh, Co Donegal Tel 071 985 2366

Road map C2

Situated on a clifftop overlooking Rosnowlagh Beach, Smuggler's Creek is a prestigious seafood restaurant. The maritime theme is also reflected in the decor. Chef Nathan Forrester prepares delicious meals that attract numerous locals. The fresh oyster and lobster dishes are particularly tempting.

#### CARRICK-ON-SHANNON Oarsman Bar & Boathouse Restaurant

€€€

Bridge St, Co Leitrim Tel 071 962 1733

Road map C3

This attractive pub is owned by Conor and Ronan Maher, who are the seventh generation of their family in the hospitality industry. The brothers' legacy is reflected in the bar's easy-going ambience and the restaurant's superb food, prepared by a strong kitchen staff led by head chef Shaun Hanna.

## **CASTLEBALDWIN Cromleach Lodge Country House**

**# & @ @ @ @ @ @** 

Castlebaldwin, Co Sligo Tel 071 916 5155

Road map C3

Fabulous views of Lough Arrow and the Bricklieve Mountains form a backdrop for gourmet dining in this hilltop country house. Moira Tighe is an innovative chef who carefully sources local ingredients. Specialities include loin of rabbit in crisp pancetta (cured Italian bacon) on vanilla risotto.

## **DUNKINEELY Castle Murray House**

€€€€

€€€

St John's Point, Co Donegal Tel 074 973 7022

Road map C2

With wonderful views across the bay and spectacular surroundings, this relaxed restaurant makes a perfect setting for enjoying classic French dishes, expertly prepared by Chef Remy Dupuy. The house speciality is prawns and monkfish in garlic butter, but the menu is seasonal with more of an emphasis on red meats in winter.

## **GLENTIES Highlands Hotel**

大も月雨

Main St, Co Donegal Tel 074 955 1111

Considered by many to be the centre of town life, this upbeat restaurant and bar has great steak. Other attractions include vegetarian curry and stir-fry. Local seafood is also available. The gigantic lunches are great value. The friendly staff extend great hospitality. There's also a small gallery here.

## GREENCASTLE Kealy's Seafood Bar The Harbour, Co Donegal Tel 074 938 1010

\* 6

€€€

Road map C1

Right by the harbour, Kealy's uses fresh seafood and organic farm produce to create its award-winning cuisine. House specialities include baked Atlantic salmon with a wholegrain mustard crust and baked fillet of hake on braised fennel with a tomato and saffron buttered sauce. All dishes are healthy, yet delicious.

## INISHOWEN PENINSULA Nancy's Malin Head, Co Donegal Tel 074 954 1187

国大月

Owned by the seventh generation of the same family, Nancy's is well-known for its good-value bar meals and snacks that are simple, yet very satisfying. Star attractions include the chowder as well as Charlie's Supper – prawns and smoked salmon warmed in garlic and chilli sauce. The atmosphere is exhilarating.

### KILCAR Teach Barnai

国大台

Main St, Co Donegal Tel 074 973 8160

Road map B2

€€€

Exuding a rustic feel, with old furniture and antiques, this family-run restaurant offers gourmet cuisine at affordable prices. Though the menu shows a French influence, dishes such as the colcannon (potatoes and cabbage, boiled and mashed together) are typically Irish. There's a wide range of local seafood and a very popular Sunday lunch.

#### KINCASSLAGH Iggy's Bar

€€ Road map C2

Also known as the Atlantic Bar, this great little pub is a popular haunt for locals and visitors alike. Ann and Iggy Murray serve simple pub food with the emphasis on seafood. The sandwiches and soups are particularly appetizing. The crab sandwich goes very well with a pint of their excellent Guinness.

## **LETTERKENNY Yellow Pepper**

+ -

(F)(F)

Lower Main St. Co Donegal Tel 074 912 4133

Kincasslagh, Co Donegal Tel 074 954 3112

Road map C1

Enjoying a central location, Yellow Pepper is housed in a Victorian shirt factory dominated by a cast-iron beam that runs through the converted dining room. The menu offers a wide selection of modern Irish dishes. The fish specialities are certainly worth considering. The carefully chosen wine list is equally extensive.

## LETTERKENNY Castle Grove Country House Hotel

大麻 €€€ Road map C1

Ballymaleel, Co Donegal Tel 074 915 1118

This recent addition to the Castle Grove group is in keeping with the style of the rest of the house. Head chef Seamus Murphy combines ingredients from the hotel garden with Gallic flair to create beautiful dishes. A particular favourite is pan-fried fillet of beef with grilled horseradish polenta and caramelized chicory.

## RATHMULLAN Weeping Elm

六色

 $\mathbb{E} \mathbb{E} \mathbb{E} \mathbb{E}$ 

Rathmullan Country House, Co Donegal Tel 074 915 8188

Road map C1

Liam McCormick, known for his imaginative Donegal churches, designed the tented ceiling of this lovely gourmet restaurant. Sample the unusual seaweed-based dessert of carrageen moss with stewed fruits. Yogurt and carrageen pudding is also on offer at the excellent buffet-style breakfasts.

#### **ROSSES POINT The Austies**

76

€€€

Rosses Point Rd, Co Donegal Tel 071 917 7111

Road map B2

A 200-year-old pub high above Sligo Bay, The Austies offers fresh seafood dishes such as crab au gratin, garlic mussels and seafood chowder. The menu is not restricted to the sea, however, and there are steaks and home-made burgers available to those who prefer meat. Open evenings only.

#### **ROSSES POINT Waterfront Bar and Restaurant**

大も月面

€€€

Rosses Point, Co Sligo Tel 071 917 7122

The brightly coloured pub exterior belies the quality of the cuisine in this excellent restaurant. Chef Alan FitzMaurice offers simple delicious bar food alongside an innovative à la carte menu, featuring slow roast duck, fresh lobster and king scallops. There's also a wide selection of wines and Irish cheeses as well as a pizza menu.

## SLIGO Atrium Restaurant

国点

The Niland Model Arts Centre, The Mall, Co Sligo Tel 071 914 1418

Road map C2

An award-winning gourmet café housed in Sligo's Model Arts Centre, Atrium Restaurant is bright and modern in design, with chairs spilling out into the gallery's atrium. Tasty light foods, such as sandwiches, omelettes and soups, are skilfully prepared by expert hands. Try the lovely compote.

## **SLIGO Garavoque**

大も月雨

Rear 15-16 Stephen's St, Co Sligo Tel 071 914 0100

Road map C2

Drawing mainly a young clientele, the excitingly designed Garavogue is named after the river flowing past it. It's certainly impressive with tall windows, an old mill wheel and a riverside terrace. Dishes include Thai and Spanish specialities, with bar food portions downstairs and a full menu available in the restaurant.

## **SLIGO Yeats Tavern Restaurant**

市も月

Drumcliff Bridge, Co Sligo Tel 071 916 3117

Road man C

With the refurbishment of its interior, Yeats Tavern Restaurant has evolved into an award-winning bar and eaterie. It is a popular stop-off point for locals and tourists in the Northwest. The menu features traditional and international dishes, including irresistible garlic mussels and sweet chilli prawns.

Key to Price Guide see p324 Key to Symbols see back cover flap

## **TOBERCURRY Killoran's Traditional Restaurant**

大も月雨

€€€

Teeling St, Co Sligo Tel 071 918 5679

Road map B3

As the name suggests, this restaurant is ideal for authentic Irish fare. Boxty (potato pancakes), crubeens (pig's trotters) and Irish stew are on the menu on Irish music nights in July and August. There's also fresh salmon caught from the River Moy. Snacks and full meals are served all day. A great place for traditional music and food.

## THE MIDLANDS

## ATHLONE The Left Bank Bistro

末も月 雨

€€€

Fry Place, Co Westmeath Tel 090 649 4446

Road map C3

Situated in the heart of Old Athlone, this stylishly designed restaurant is the essence of soulful minimalism. Creative and delicious food is served in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. Lunches feature soup, chicken fajitas, vegetable tartlets and focaccia sandwiches. Extensive dinner menu includes steaks and seafood.

#### **BETTYSTOWN Bacchus at the Coastguard**

**大** 

€€€

Bayview, Co Meath Tel 041 982 8251

Road map D3

A beachside restaurant overlooking Bettystown Bay, the Bacchus is one of the most popular in the area and has a pleasing ambience. The well-balanced menu features a number of seafood dishes as well as Duleek lamb with rosemary and redcurrant sauce. Don't miss the delicious desserts. The early-dinner menu is very good value.

#### BIRR The Thatch Bar & Restaurant

**大** ①

€€€

Crinkill, Co Offaly Tel 0509 20682

Road map C4

This beautiful traditional thatched pub, with whitewashed walls, cobblestones and fresh flowers, is situated just outside the town. In the same family for the last 200 years, it offers genuine, warm hospitality and good, imaginative food. Try the delicious roast pheasant with fresh herbs and fruit stuffing.

## BLACKLION MacNean House & Bistro

末も

€€€€

Main St, Co Cavan **Tel** 071 985 3404

Road map D2

Neven Maguire, one of Ireland's leading chefs, has drawn huge national attention with his excellent cooking. His family-run guesthouse has earned him numerous awards. Local artisan produce features in well-balanced and imaginative menus. Sea scallops with crab and saffron risotto is a winning recipe. The game dishes are excellent.

## **CARLINGFORD Georgina's Bakehouse Tearooms**

国大雨

**©** 

Castle Hill, Co Louth Tel 042 937 3346

Road map D3

Georgina's intimate little tearooms are tucked away, somewhat difficult to find, but worth discovering. There is a genuine friendliness about the place. Elegantly decorated in a modern style, it serves wholesome soups, sandwiches and salads. Desserts feature home-baked cakes, tarts and biscuits.

## **CARLINGFORD Kingfisher Bistro**

大と手

€€€

Road map D

This cosy little restaurant at the heritage centre is perhaps the best in the area. It offers reliably good food at reasonable prices. Set in a stone building, with warmly coloured walls, it offers Continental cuisine with an occasional Southeast Asian flavour. Tasty steaks and fish dishes. Vegetarians are well catered for.

#### CARRICKMACROSS Nuremore Hotel & Country Club

Darcy McGee Court, Dundalk St, Co Louth Tel 042 937 3716

大も月ま

**€€** 

Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan Tel 042 966 1438

Road map D3

The restaurant at the scenic Nuremore Hotel is regarded as one of the best in the area. Elegantly furnished, it boasts an immensely talented chef who is attracting patrons from around the country. Try the signature tian of crab and Annagassan lobster, with fine cucumber, caviar and sauce gazpacho. Worth a detour.

## **COLLON Forge Gallery Restaurant**

★ と 乖

€€€

Collon, Co Louth Tel 041 982 6272 Fax 041 9826584

Road map D3

The leading restaurant in the area, this is an immaculately-maintained place of great character. In operation for over two decades, it is adept at combining French and Irish cooking to good effect. Local seafood and game feature prominently on the seasonal menus. Try the combo of prawns and scallops or the roast rack of lamb.

## **DUNDALK Quaglino's**

\*

€€€

The Century Bar, 19 Roden Place, Co Louth Tel 042 933 8567

Road map D3

Housed on the first floor of an attractive listed building dating to 1902, the award-winning Quaglino's offers highquality meals. Baked Carlingford oysters in an herb and garlic butter is a house speciality. The Century Bar has great character and retains many of its period and historic features. There's a good early dinner menu.

## **KELLS The Vanilla Pod**

大も月

**©©©** 

Headfort Arms Hotel, Co Meath Tel 046 924 0063

Road map D3

Part of the hotel, this hip bistro-style restaurant is contemporary in design, with oak tables, dim lighting and stylish table settings. The food is modern, with a variety of global influences. Try the grilled goat's cheese crostini (thin slices of toasted bread) with plum chutney, followed by black sole with prawns and garlic. The chocolate fondue is a treat.

## KINNEGAD The Cottage Restaurant

国大も

€€

Kinnegad, Co Westmeath Tel 044 75284

Road map D3

This small, traditional restaurant is a popular stop-off point for those travelling to and from the West. Savour comfort food in a cosy atmosphere. Tasty soups, salads, sandwiches and hot dishes, such as home-made omelettes and quiches, are on the menu. Home-baked delicacies include lovely cakes, biscuits and scones. Open weekdays only.

#### LONGFORD Aubergine Gallery Café

€€

The White House, 17 Ballymahon St, Co Longford Tel 043 48633

Road map C3

This bright and stylish first-floor restaurant, with interesting artwork, serves international fare with a Mediterranean and modern Irish slant. Succulent steaks, good seafood, poultry and tasty vegetarian dishes are served, all at a reasonable price. Try the sirloin steak with whiskey and pepper cream.

## MONAGHAN Andy's Restaurant

12 Market St, Co Monaghan Tel 047 82277

Road map D2

€€

The immaculately maintained, family-run Andy's Restaurant is located in the heart of town and has been the recipient of many awards. The cheerful old-fashioned atmosphere draws a regular clientele. Quality ingredients are used in its good cooking. Informal food is available downstairs in the lovely traditionally-styled bar.

## MULLINGAR Ilia A Coffee Experience

28 Oliver Plunkett St, Co Westmeath Tel 044 40300

Road map (3)

Vibrant and colourful, this contemporary café and daytime restaurant is immensely popular for its wholesome and freshly prepared food. Delicious breakfasts, soups, bruschetta, panini and salads are served during the day. There's also a wide variety of fresh juices, smoothies, lovely pastries and other desserts to choose from.

## MULLINGAR The Belfry Restaurant

€€€€

Ballinegall, Co Westmeath Tel 044 42488

Road map C3

Formerly a church, now a wonderfully designed restaurant, the Belfry is tastefully furnished, well-lit and has a welcoming atmosphere. The expertly cooked and appealingly presented food is a blend of modern Irish and traditional French cuisine. Try the organic smoked fish ravioli.

## NAVAN Ryan's Bar

大と示

22 Trimgate St, Co Meath Tel 046 902 1154

Road map D3

Cosy and impeccably run, Ryan's Bar enjoys a central location and an enviable popularity. The reasonably priced bar food is above average. Modern snacks are served at lunch time: soups, delicious seafood chowder, open prawn and salmon sandwiches, wraps, panini, toasted sandwiches, daily specials and tasty desserts.

#### PORTLAOISE The Kitchen & Foodhall

大と雨

Hvnds Sq. Co Laois Tel 0502 62061

Road map C4

This delightful self-service bistro and delicatessen is a landmark establishment in the centre of town. With its open fire and relaxed atmosphere, it has earned a reputation for delicious home cooking. Terrines, quiches, home-baked breads, freshly prepared salads, wholesome hot dishes and wonderful desserts are on the menu. Open daytime only.

#### SLANE Franzini O'Brien's

大ら

French's Lane, Co Meath Tel 046 943 1002

Road map D3

Set in a lovely location, overlooking Trim Castle, this smart and spacious eaterie is well designed with easy parking. It offers well-informed, friendly service and international cuisine at affordable prices. The atmosphere is informal and lively. Menu features delicious fajitas and soups. There's a very good wine list. Open evenings only.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

## ARDGLASS Aldo's

7 Castle Place, Ardglass, Downpatrick, Co Down BT30 7TP Tel 028 4484 1315

Road map F2

This Italian restaurant has been owned and managed by the Vinaccia family for over two decades. The service is very good and friendly, with a menu of antipasti, pasta, fresh fish and meats. Vegetarians are well catered for and, with prior notice, an extensive selection can be provided. Open for lunch and dinner.

#### ARMAGH Pilgrim's Table

層大島麻

(£)(£)

(£)(£)(£)

38-40 English St, Co Armagh BT61 7LJ Tel 028 3752 1814

Road map D2

Expect fine home cooking with fresh local produce at Pilgrim's Table. The self-service menu offers a wide variety of salads, casseroles, sandwiches and delicious pastries. Unfussy dishes, especially the soups, are tasty, filling and of superb value. Though the restaurant doesn't serve wine, it's a great choice for a hearty meal.

## ARMAGH The Famous Grouse Country Inn

76

(£)(£)

16 Ballyhagan Road, Loughgall, Co Armagh BT61 8PX Tel 028 3889 1778

Road map D2

This meat-eater's paradise is housed in a recently refurbished building. The combination of quality local produce and good cooking produces tasty steaks, king prawns and Oriental kebabs. The menu is very reasonably priced and the quiet country setting is an add-on.

Key to Symbols see back cover flap

#### **BALLYCASTLE** Wysner's Restaurant

76

(£)(£)

16 Anne St, Co Antrim, BT54 6AD Tel 028 2076 2372

Road map D1

Downstairs at Wysner's is an elegant French-style café, while upstairs is a small family-run restaurant. The Bushmills Malt cheesecake is a must. Adventurous savoury combinations, such as seared scallops with guacamole and chilli, are also available alongside more traditional fare such as champ with onion gravy.

**BANGOR Seasalt** 

大き雨

(£)(£)

51 Central Promenade, Newcastle, Co Down, BT33 0AA Tel 028 4372 5027

Road map D2

Situated on a seafront terrace facing the water, Seasalt has a stunning range of dishes. Unsurprisingly, the local shellfish is top-notch, especially the Ardglass crab and Dundrum Bay mussels. The views are great and there's a casual, friendly atmosphere here. The restaurant is not licensed to sell alcohol, but allows you to bring your own.

**BELFAST Belfast Castle Restaurant** 

(£)(£)

Antrim Rd, Belfast, Co Antrim BT15 5GR Tel 028 9077 6925

Road map D2

With a strikingly romantic setting, Belfast Castle Restaurant offers one of the best views in Belfast. The decor is in keeping with the grandeur of the castle's design. The star attractions include peppered fillet of venison and cured salmon. Open for lunch and dinner everyday except Sunday.

BELFAST Café Paul Rankin

大と雨

27-29 Fountain St, Co Antrim, BT1 6ET Tel 028 9031 5090

Road map D2

Part of a chain conceived by Northern Ireland's food saviour, Paul Rankin, this neighbourhood café has a Continental style tempered by a delightful selection of home-made goodies, including a wide choice of breads, soups and chutneys. This is an excellent, good value alternative to Rankin's other creation, Cayenne (see p344).

#### **BELFAST Crown Liquor Saloon**

**大** 月

46 Great Victoria St, Belfast, Co Antrim BT2 7BA Tel 028 9027 9901

Road map D2

Crown Liquor Saloon is a real Belfast landmark with swing doors and a Wild West feel. The bar's snug-like booths include table space for a bowl of Irish stew and champ - a local speciality of potatoes, spring onions and butter. It's well worth a visit if only for a pint and a look around at the fascinating Victoriana.

## **BELFAST Duke of York**

多月

(£)(£) Road map D2

11 Commercial Court, Co Antrim, BT1 2NB Tel 028 9024 1062 In a long narrow bar, this very reasonably priced restaurant offers typical pub grub. Near St Anne's Cathedral and

tucked down a cobbled alleyway, one of the city's oldest streets, the Duke of York is Irish in style and cluttered with Belfast memorabilia, particularly printer's trade paraphernalia.

## **BELFAST Raj Put**

\* 6

(£)(£)

461 Lisburn Rd, Co Antrim, BT9 7EY Tel 028 9066 2168

Road map D2

A good-value Indian restaurant with sophisticated and mildly-spiced fare. There's excellent saag aloo (a potato and spinach dish) and saag paneer (spinach with cottage cheese) for those with vegetarian tastes, and tasty chicken tikka masala for the carnivores. Though located very far south, the place is convenient to local B&Bs.

## **BELFAST The Barnett Room**

\* 6

(£)(£)

Malone House, Barnett Demesne, Co Antrim, BT9 5LH Tel 028 9068 1246

Road map D2

Housed in a graceful late-Georgian mansion, the Barnett Room is renowned for its excellent cuisine. Only the bestquality Ulster produce is used in the brasserie-style menu served at this local favourite. Vegetarian dishes are often the house special.

## **BELFAST Archana Balti House**

\* 6

(£)(£)

53 Dublin Rd, Co Antrim, BT2 7HE Tel 028 9032 3713

Road map D2

One of the best Indian restaurants in Belfast and one of the first on the island, Archana serves up a mouthwatering selection of curries and Balti dishes. It's particularly noted for its vegetarian options, even catering widely for vegans. The Thali lunch is particularly good value. Fully licensed to serve alcohol.

## **BELFAST Manor House Restaurant**

\* E

(£)(£)

43-47 Donegall Pass, Co Antrim, BT17 1DQ Tel 028 9023 8755

separate vegetarian menu as well as an extensive selection of cocktails.

Road map D2

Run by the Wong family since 1982, this Cantonese restaurant is a reliable and popular place. The menu is extensive and given in Chinese as well as English, with some unusual options. Steamed whole seafish with garlic and scallions is recommended while those interested in more adventurous seafood can order eel.

## **BELFAST Metro Brasserie** 13 Lower Crescent, Co Antrim, BT7 1NR Tel 028 9032 3349

(£)(£) Road map D2

This is a trendy modern version of the traditional brasserie housed in the beautiful Crescent Townhouse. The interior design is striking and unusual and gives the place a sophisticated but relaxed atmosphere. There's a

## **BELFAST The Potthouse**

大も月

(£)(£)(£) Road map D2

1 Hill Street, Co Antrim, BT1 2LB Tel 028 9024 4044

Built on the site of a 17th-century pottery, this restaurant is part of a three-storey complex which also includes a nightclub and guestroom. Despite its glass floors, young crowd and general exuberance, it offers a wide-ranging yet simple gastro-pub menu based on traditional Irish fare.

£ under £15

(£)(£)

£15-£25

**££** 

£25-£35

**€£££££££££** over £50

**BELFAST Zen** 

Road map D2

Ł

55-59 Adelaide St. Co Antrim. BT2 8FE Tel 028 9023 2244

(£)(£)(£)

As the name suggests, Zen is a restaurant with the calmness and serenity of a rock garden. The beautiful elegant surroundings are matched only by the presentation of the food. Extensive menu of sashimi, sushi, tempura, maki rolls and other Japanese specialities. Try the dinner set.

**BELFAST Alden's** 

\* & (f)(f)(f) Road map D2

229 Upper Newtownards Rd, Co Antrim, BT4 3JF Tel 028 9065 0079

A welcome modern addition to Belfast's burgeoning restaurant scene, Alden's has a warmth and casualness that is at odds with the sophistication of the menu and decor. Though the menu of this critically-acclaimed place changes regularly, the fish and seafood are consistently good.

**BELFAST Cavenne** 

**(£)(£)(£)** 

7 Lesley House, Shaftesbury Sq, Co Antrim, BT2 7DB Tel 028 9033 1532

Road map D2

Celebrity chefs Paul and Jeanne Rankin opened this restaurant in 1999, and serve a delicious mix of Thai, Japanese and other Asian-influenced dishes. Exotic and innovative mains, such as spiced breast of duck with Shanghai noodles, sprouting broccoli, oyster mushrooms and black bean sauce are typical.

**BELFAST Nick's Warehouse** 

**EEE** 

35-39 Hill St, Co Antrim, BT1 2LB Tel 028 9043 9690

Road map D2

Nick and Kathy Price's converted warehouse, tucked away in the cobbled backstreets of central Belfast, gets top marks for atmosphere. The menu includes Nick's latest culinary innovations made from produce sourced from the best suppliers, including "the organic lettuce man and the wild boar and rare pig lady"

**BELFAST Restaurant Michael Deane** 

76 (£)(£)(£)

36-40 Howard St. Co Antrim. BT1 6PF Tel 028 9033 1134

Road map D2

You have a choice here of smart and elegant formal dining on the first floor, or the more informal brasserie on the ground floor. The food is excellent in both, with home-made bangers and mash on offer alongside Thai and crab salads. Chef Michael Deane has a superb reputation and was one of the first in Ireland to cook fusion food.

**BUSHMILLS Bushmills Inn** 

(£)(£) 大と赤

Road map D1

9 Dunluce Rd, Co Antrim, BT57 8QG Tel 028 2073 2339

Originally an old coaching inn, this popular hostelry is only a few miles from the Giant's Causeway and close to the

Bushmills Distillery. It overlooks the garden courtyard making for a lovely view and wonderful atmosphere. Food is a combination of classical and new Irish, presided over by Chef Donna Thompson.

**DUNDRUM The Buck's Head** 

76 (£)(£)

77 Main St. Co Down, BT33 OLU Tel 028 4375 1868

Road map E2

Open fires and hospitable, friendly service make this a preferred stop for lunch, high tea or dinner. The cuisine is a mix of traditional and modern, made from local produce. Seafood particularly features fresh catch, such as oysters from Dundrum Bay. The atmosphere is pleasant and the large attractive dining room overlooks a walled garden.

**DUNGANNON Viscount's Restaurant** 

76 (£)(£)

10 Northland Row, Co Tyrone, BT71 6AP Tel 028 8775 3800

Road map D2

A Victorian church has been converted into a medieval-style banqueting hall with the emphasis on fun as much as food. The decor is almost Arthurian with maroon drapes, heraldic banners and beautiful stained-glass windows. The large menu caters to all appetites and is popular with families in the daytime. There's a good carvery.

**ENNISKILLEN Oscar's** 

大も月

29 Belmore St, Co Fermanagh, BT74 6AA Tel 028 6632 7037

Road map C

As a testament to Oscar Wilde, who attended the nearby Portora Royal school, this unique pub and restaurant boasts book-lined walls, portraits of the writer and even a re-creation of his cell in Reading Gaol. The menu is impressive with Mediterranean influences and even some East Asian dishes.

**ENNISKILLEN The Sheelin** 

大色雨

(£)(£)

Bellanaleck, Co Fermanagh, BT92 2BA Tel 028 6634 8232

Road map C2

On the shores of Lower Lough Erne, the Sheelin is a thatched cottage restaurant that promises a true gourmet experience. The traditional Irish menu features T-bone steak and Guinness beef pie as specialities. The wine list

FLORENCE COURT Arch Tullyhona House Restaurant

日才も雨

is comprehensive and well priced.

59 Marble Arch Rd, Co Fermanagh, BT92 1DE Tel 028 6634 8452

Road map C2

Beside Marble Arch caves, this farm restaurant offers great food and service. Produce fresh from the farm is used, with wild salmon and Lough Erne trout on offer too. Desserts such as lemon soufflé and fresh fruit pavlova are a speciality. If you're in the mood for some home cooking, this is a good bet.

HILLSBOROUGH Hillside Restaurant & Bar

**大息月**新

(f)(f)(f)

21 Main St, Co Down, BT26 6AE Tel 028 9268 2765

Road map D2

This attractive country-style pub and restaurant has an excellent seasonal menu. Patrons can choose between the Edwardian Restaurant with its starched tablecloths, or the more informal Refectory. The bar serves a good selection of real ales, while mulled wine is available on cold winter nights.

Key to Symbols see back cover flap

#### **HOLYWOD Bay Tree Coffee House**

(£)(£)

118 High St, Co Down, BT18 9HW Tel 028 9042 1419

This café is part of a wonderful craft shop that sells characteristic Irish wares, mainly pottery. Lunch is served daily, with an emphasis on vegetarian food and organic salads. Dinner is served only on Fridays, when booking is advised. The dinner menu includes interesting options such as gumbo and quesadilla.

## LIMAVADY The Lime Tree

大台

(f)(f)

60 Catherine St, Co Londonderry, BT49 9DB Tel 028 7776 4300

Road map D1

Right on the main street of the attractive town, The Lime Tree is small and quite simply decorated. The impressive menu offers unusual and subtle tasting dishes put together with local ingredients. There are excellent options for carnivores such as Sperrin lamb with Moroccan spiced sauce and roasted stuffed saddle of rabbit.

## LONDONDERRY The Sandwich Company

圖片

The Diamond, Co Londonderry, BT48 6HP Tel 028 7137 2500 Road map C1 A good source for sandwiches served in a black-and-white interior, The Sandwich Company has a wide choice of fillings and breads, both hot and cold. It's a perfect place to have delicious pastries and great coffee, served by a pleasant staff. Smoked salmon and prawn baguette is a nice alternative to your typical ham and cheese sandwich.

## LONDONDERRY Badger's Bar & Restaurant

末も月 (£)(£)

16-18 Orchard St., Co Londonderry, BT48 6EG Tel 028 7136 3306

Road map C1

Attracting an older type of clientele for chat, pints and conviviality, Badger's Bar & Restaurant is a charming pub specializing in steaks, salad and afternoon tea. Guinness casserole is particularly recommended, although its liquid form doesn't appeal to everyone's taste.

#### LONDONDERRY The Metro

大も月

(£)(£)

3-4 Bank Pl, Co Londonderry, BT48 6EA Tel 028 7126 7401

Road map C1

Shadowed by Derry's city walls, the Metro is a local favourite. Although it only dates back to the 1980s, it has a formidable presence in the area. The food, from soup and sandwiches to Guinness beef stew, is first-rate. Service is very good with friendly staff. The lovely views can be enjoyed over a pint. Open for lunch only.

## LONDONDERRY Brown's Bar & Brasserie

(£)(£)

1 Bonds Hill, Co Londonderry, BT 47 6DW Tel 028 7134 5180

Road map C1

Look past the rather unremarkable façade of this unassuming building and you'll discover some of the best-value food in the city. A modern European menu, relying on fresh and often organic ingredients, is complemented by minimalist yet warm decor. Dress is casual as is the environment.

#### **OMAGH Grant's Restaurant**

大山月

(f)(f)

29 George's St, Co Tyrone, BT78 2EY Tel 028 8225 0900

Road map C2

Named after Ulysses S Grant, this restaurant offers a bistro menu or bar snack food in comfortable pub surroundings. Evening meals comprise seafood, pasta and steak and although some of the dishes are quite pricey, the lunch and set dinner options are extremely good value.

#### **PORTAFERRY The Narrows**

大島郡

(£)(£)(£)

Road map E2

A bright, light restaurant housed in an 18th-century courtyard development, with delicious, locally sourced ingredients, the Narrows specializes in seafood. Options include Portaferry mussels with garlic and white wine cream and whole grilled lobster. A tapas menu is on offer in the Ruffian Bar and there's an extensive wine list.

## PORTBALLINTRAE Sweeney's Wine Bar

8 Shore Rd, Co Down, BT22 1JY Tel 028 4272 8148

大も月

(£)(£)

6b Seaport Ave, Co Antrim, BT57 8SB Tel 028 2073 2405

Road map D1

Modestly priced and cheerful, Sweeny's Wine Bar offers creatively prepared food. Seafood specialities include lobster, wild salmon and locally caught white fish. Situated on the Causeway Coast, the restaurant occupies a converted stable block overlooking Portballintrae Harbour. Evenings can get busy.

#### **PORTRUSH The Harbour Bistro**

(£)(£)

The Harbour, Co Antrim, BT56 8DF Tel 028 7082 2430

The Harbour is probably the nicest place in town. The traditional pub area on the ground floor has roaring fires and a great atmosphere. The restaurant is also informal and offers a good selection of à la carte dishes. Food is traditional Irish with a twist and there is a good wine selection.

## **PORTSTEWART Morellis Ninos**

方も

53 The Promenade, Portstewart, Co Londonderry, BT55 7AF Tel 028 7083 2150

Road map D1

Opened in 1911 as an ice cream parlour, Morellis Ninos recently is now an Italian-style café. It has expanded to include hot food such as authentic Italian pasta, sandwiches and paninis as well as a long coffee list. Home-made pastries and desserts are a delight. Lovely location on the Promenade with a view of the bay.

## STRANGFORD The Lobster Pot Bar & Restaurant

(£)(£)

The Square, Co Down, BT30 7ND Tel 028 4488 1288

Road map E2

Only the finest local catches are served in this predominantly fish restaurant overlooking Strangford Lough Unsurprisingly, lobster is a speciality but the seafood on offer is diverse: Dundrum Bay oysters, dressed crab and mussels. There's a lovely beer garden where you can dine in summer. Dinner is well priced.

(£) under £15

**££** 

£15-£25

**££** 

£25-£35 **€€€** £35–£50 **€£££** over £50

## Pubs in Ireland

The archetypal Irish pub is celebrated for its convivial atmosphere, friendly locals, genial bar staff and the "crack" – the Irish expression for fun. Wit is washed down with whiskey or Guinness, the national drinks. Irish pubs date back to medieval taverns, coaching inns and shebeens, illegal drinking dens which flourished under colonial rule. In Victorian times, brewing and distilling were major industries. The sumptuous Edwardian or Victorian interiors of some city pubs are a testament to these times, furnished with mahogany and marble bar counters. Snugs, partitioned-off booths, are another typical feature of Irish pubs. Traditional pubs can be boldly painted, thatched or "black-and-white" – beamed with a white façade and black trim. Some rural pubs double as grocers' shops. All pubs in the Republic are now smoke-free.

Good pubs are not evenly distributed throughout the country: in the Southeast, Kilkenny is paradise for publovers, while Cork and Kerry possess some of the most picturesque pubs. The Lower Shannon region is noted for its boisterous pubs, especially in County Clare where spontaneous music sessions are common. The West has an abundance of typical Irish pubs, and the many tourists and students guarantee a profusion of good pubs in Galway. The listings below cover a selection of pubs throughout Ireland; for Dublin pubs, see pages 110–11.

## **SOUTHEAST IRELAND**

Brittas Bay: Jack White's Inn Jack White's Cross, Co Wicklow. Road map D4. Tel 0404 47106. A typical Irish country pub perfectly situated off the N11, which runs from Dublin to the Southeast. Simple but tasty pub fare is served until 9pm. A real local legend, this pub is mired in controversy, due to a murder committed here in 1996.

11 6 5

Carlow: Teach Dolmain
Tullow St, Co Carlow.
Road map D4. Tel 059 913 0911.
This multi-award winning pub, in Carlow's town centre, has a curious collection of unique pottery and ancient artifacts from the town's and Ireland's history.
This pub has an excellent menu and is ideally suited for large groups.

**Dunmore East:** The Ship Inn Co Waterford. **Road map** D5. **Tel** 051 383141.

This old, ivy-clad pub lies above the harbour, away from the crowds on the beach. It is noted both for its Michelin-rated seafood and its seafaring links. Inside, nautical memorabilia and half-barrel seats abound in the front bar. There is a large, pleasant deck perfect for drinking and eating on long summer days.

Enniscorthy: The Antique Tavern
1a Slaney St, Co Wexford.
Road map D5. Tel 054 33428.
This traditional, timbered, black-and-white pub is charming. The dark, intimate bar contains relics such as pikestaffs from Vinegar Hill, the decisive battle in the 1798 uprising that was fought outside town. Pub lunches and local chat are on offer. In good weather, you can sit on the balcony and enjoy

the pleasant views of the River

Slaney. 11

Enniscorthy: Holohan
Slaney Place, Co Wexford.
Road map D5. Tel 054 33179.
At the back of the Castle Museum, this is essentially a workaday pub with few pretensions. Its unusual location makes it worth a visit for a pint or two – it is built right into the base of an old quarry and a vertical cliff forms part of the back wall of the bar.

Kilkenny: Bollard's Pub
St Kieran's St, Co Kilkenny.
Road map C4. Tel 056 772 1353.
Located 200 m (656 ft) from
the ever popular Saint Francis's
Abbey Brewery, this pub has been
in the Bollard family since 1904.
It has a fine sporting tradition,
often attracting large crowds for
hurling and football fixtures.
Enjoy a pint and watch the Sunday
game.

Kilkenny: Hibernian

1, Armonde St, Co Kilkenny.

Road map C4. Tel 056 777 1888.

Sited in an old bank and part of the Hibernian Hotel, this rather formal pub, popular with a fairly young crowd, still has its original decor. Tall wooden partitions create nice private spaces. Modern Irish food is available.

Kilkenny: Kyteler's Inn 27 St Kieran's St, Co Kilkenny. Road map C4. Tel 056 772 1064. In good weather you can sit in the courtyard of this historic coaching inn and cellar bar. Food is available all day, and meals are served daily until 9:45pm (last orders). An effigy of a witch sits in the window frame, a reminder of the story of a former resident, Dame Alice Kyteler. In 1324, Alice and her maid were pronounced guilty of witchcraft after four of Alice's husbands had died in mysterious circumstances; although pardoned, Alice was again accused but escaped, leaving her maid to burn at the stake. 11 📻 🕹 🎵

Kilkenny: Langton's
69 John St, Co Kilkenny.
Road map C4. Tel 056 776 5133.
Langton's is noted for its blackand-white exterior, Edwardian
ambience and the stylish glass
interior at the back. The front bar
is cosy with a low ceiling. Pub
food is on offer, and there's music
and dancing three or four nights a
week; Tuesday, Thursday and
Saturday are disco nights.

11 7 6

Kilkenny: Marble City Bar 66 High St, Co Kilkenny. Road map C4. Tel 056 776 1143. Marble City Bar, the most famous pub in town, is named after the local limestone, which becomes black when polished. This fourstorey building has an Art Deco façade. A busy café-bar with no reservations. Bar food till 9pm.

II sta

Kilkenny: Tynan's Bridge
House Bar
2 John's Bridge, Co Kilkenny.
Road map C4. Tel 056 772 1291.
This is the most genuine old-world pub in town, with an intimate interior lit by charming lamps.
Quaint relics of the former grocery store and pharmacy are on display, from a set of old scales to the drawers labelled with names of nuts and spices. No music, no TV; as the publican puts it, this is "a chat bar". Friendly service with fine views of Kilkenny Castle.

347

Kilmore Quay: The Wooden House Lodge Co Wexford. Road map D5. Tel 053 29804.

This traditional – if over-restored – thatched pub is full of nautical memorabilia and quirky sayings while the small terrace is decorated with anchors. Hearty pub fare is served.

**Leighlinbridge:** The Lord Bagenal

Co Carlow. **Road map** D5. **Tel** 059 972 1668. This pub is a well-known

This pub is a well-known stop-off point for those travelling south from Dublin. Set in a small, peaceful village in County Carlow, the Lord Bagenal overlooks a picturesque marina on the River Barrow. It boasts award-winning food and also has a children's crèche.

New Ross: Corcoran's Pub Irishtown, Co Wexford.
Road map D5. Tel 051 425920.
Head here if you crave fresh, home-made food. Having had five generations of continuous ownership, Corcoran's is one of the oldest pubs in town and has a friendly atmosphere. Card games are played every Monday with music sessions on weekends, including Irish music, singing and dancing.

Waterford: Axis Mundi
The Mall, Co Waterford.
Road map DS. Tel 051 855087.
Set beside Reginald's Tower,
Axis Mundi incorporates part
of the Viking city walls and the
medieval sallyports (attack exits),
which are still visible. The service
is rather brusque. There is an
adjoining nightclub.

**Waterford:** Jack Meade's Pub

川爾占月

Cheekpoint Rd, Co Waterford.
Road map D5. Tel 051 850950.
Situated under an old stone bridge
7 km (4 miles) south of town,
Jack Meade's provides a quiet
and quaint atmosphere. In the
summer, musicians play outdoors
and children can amuse themselves in the playground. Drop
by for the setting and some lunch.

Waterford: T and H Doolin George's St, Co Waterford. Road map D5. Tel 051 841504. Set in the city's most charming pedestrianized street, this traditional, 18th-century black-and-white pub offers an intimate atmosphere and good "crack", Traditional folk music sessions are held every night. Wexford: Centenary Stores Charlotte St, Co Wexford.

Road map D5. Tel 053 24424.
Tucked away in a converted warehouse, this cosy, dimly lit pub is the most charming in Wexford.
The friendly bar staff and a mixed local and bohemian crowd chat in the wood-panelled bar. Drinkers are entertained with sessions of traditional music every Sunday morning, and on Monday and Wednesday evenings in summer.

刊品月

**Wexford:** Westgate Tavern Westgate, Co Wexford.

Road map D5. Tel 053 22086. Licensed since 1761, this distinctive tavern faces the path leading to the famous Selskar Abbey and Westgate Heritage Centre. Lunch menu and bar snacks are available in the welcoming bar and there are music sessions on Sunday and Monday evenings.

#### **CORK AND KERRY**

Baltimore: Bushe's Co Cork. Road map B6. Tel 028 20119.

Famous in County Cork, this pub serves the best ales and pints in the village and is well used to visitors dropping by. Sit outside in the summer and gaze out onto the islands or watch the beautiful sunset.

Cahirciveen: The Point Bar Valentia Harbour, Co Kerry.
Road map A5. Tel 066 947 2165.
Best to save this one for the summer months. Ultra-fresh seafood, spontaneous musical sessions and a stunning view of Valentia Island, the Point Bar is considered by many to be one of Kerry's greatest. If

Castletownshend: Mary Ann's Co Cork. Road map B6.

Tel 028 36146.

Since opening in 1846, Mary Ann's has maintained excellent service and a great reputation for quality home-made food. Full of interesting antiques, this is one of the best examples of a traditional pub in Ireland.

Clonakilty: De Barra's Co Cork. Road map B6. Tel 023 33381.

This is one of the best-known pubs in West Cork, with a traditional folk club open most nights; many musicians come from the Gaeltacht (see p229). The bar is lovingly restored, with hand-painted signs and traditional whiskey jars. Simple snacks and full lunches are served from noon to 3pm.

Cork: Bodega

46–49 Cornmarket St, Co Cork.

Road map C5. Tel 021 427 2878.
This bright, modern pub and restaurant was once a warehouse.
The high ceilings create a feeling of openness; the huge wall-spaces are taken up by art, much of it for sale. Soup and sandwiches in the afternoon give way to an international menu in the evening. On Saturdays, the open air market outside adds to the hustle and bustle.

Cork: Chateau Bar St Patrick's St, Co Cork.

Road map C5. *Tel 021 427 0370*. This bar in the heart of the city occupies a striking building that was once on the quayside. Founded in 1793, this elegant pub has a stylish Victorian interior and offers good quality bar fare.

11 # 6

Cork: Chimes 27 Church St, Co Cork.

Road map C5. Tel 021 430 4136. Set in the hilly, old-world Shandon district, this convivial working-class pub attracts a mixed, friendly crowd, from local pensioners to sports fans and students. On Saturday and Sunday nights there's music, usually in the form of accordion or keyboard soloists.

Cork: The Gables 31/32 Douglas 5t, Co Cork.
Road map C5. Tel 021 431 3076.
This traditional Irish pub combines good food and live music. The menus, both food and wine, are an alternative to typical pub food and are well worth sampling. Food is served from 12:30 to 3pm and 5 to 9pm. Traditional live music on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday complements this already atmospheric pub.

Cork: Henchy's
40 St Luke's Cross, Co Cork.
Road map C5. Tel 021 450 7833.
This traditional pub dates from
1884 and has retained much of its
Victorian ambience, enhanced by
the mahogany bar and stained glass.
It has long been associated with
poets and is where young hopefuls
come to recite their work to a
largely sympathetic audience.

Cork: The Long Valley
Winthrop St, Co Cork. Road map C5.
Tel 021 427 2144.

Located just off Patrick Street, this pub has a sense of the unexpected. It attracts all sorts of characters from chancers to professionals. It is well known for its smooth pints of Murphy's, which any self-respecting local will choose over Guinness.

## Dingle: Dick Mack's

Green St, Co Kerry. Road map A5.

This individualistic spot is part shoe shop, part pub, and retains the original shop and drinking counters. The pub is a haunt of local artists, eccentrics and extroverts. In the evening, regulars often congregate around the piano.

#### **Dingle:** Doyle's Townhouse John St, Co Kerry. **Road map** A5. **Tel** 066 915 1174.

This bar and restaurant is celebrated for its delicious freshly caught seafood, and the bar's rustic, yet cosy, stone interior is an appealing place for dinner. Don't miss the house speciality, lobsters. Doyle's is open mid-March to mid-November.

#### Dunquin: Krugers Co Kerry. Road map A5. Tel 066 915 6127.

Situated close to the quays for the Blasket Islands, this well-known family pub is also a guesthouse from March to September. The pub is decorated with family memorabilia and stills from the famous films made in the area, such as Ryan's Daughter and Far and Away.

#### Glencar: The Climber's Inn Co Kerry. Road map B5. Tel 066 976 0101.

This family run pub is a famous landmark on the way to the Kerry highlands. It boasts an open fire and live Irish music and serves up great home-cooked meals with interesting vegetarian options. Chat with other hikers and climbers after a day's trekking.

## **Killarney:** Buckley's Bar College St, Co Kerry.

Road map B5. Tel 064 31037. This oak-panelled bar is noted for its regular traditional music sessions and its filling meals. The pub was opened in 1926 when Tom Buckley, a homesick emigrant, returned from New York. Bar food is served until 4pm.

# Killarney: The Laurels Main St, Co Kerry. Road map B5. Tel 064 31149.

This claims to be Killarney's liveliest pub and is popular with young locals and tourists. It provides excellent bar snacks and good meals (steak, mussels, oysters, fish) in a separate restaurant area. Ballads are performed occasionally from 9:15pm between February and November, and more sporadically in winter.

# Key to Symbols see back cover flap

## Killorglin: The Old Forge

Co Kerry. **Road map** A5. **Tel** 066 976 1231.

Set on the popular Ring of Kerry, this thatched pub is delightfully old fashioned and authentic. Expect it to be packed during the Puck Fair in August (see p49). Music is played in summer.

#### Kinsale: Kieran's Folk House Inn Guardwell Co Cork Road r

Guardwell, Co Cork. Road map B6. Tel 021 477 2382.

This convivial corner of old Kinsale draws locals and visitors alike. The interior is snug and welcoming, with live music every night during the season. The inn also houses a pleasant guesthouse and a noted restaurant – the Shrimps Seafood Bistro, open for lunch and dinner all year.

#### Kinsale: The Lord Kingsale Main St, Co Cork. Road map B6. Tel 021 477 2371.

This beamed, old-fashioned pub attracts a quiet, genteel crowd. It is several hundred years old but the interior is, in part, a clever fake. In summer, live music is performed at weekends and on Mondays. Bar food is served from noon to 3pm.

## Scilly: The Spaniard Inn Kinsale, Co Cork. Road map B6. Tel 021 477 2436.

Set on a hairpin bend in the village of Scilly, this popular fishermen's pub has the air of a smugglers' inn. There is often live traditional music in one of the bars most nights during the summer and it is particularly popular at weekends. The restaurant (open in the summer season) and bar offer simple, but excellent fare.

#### Sherkin Island: The Jolly Roger Co Cork. Road map B6. Tel 028 20379.

Island atmosphere pervades this cosy pub, which serves outstandingly good-value lunches. In summer you can sit outside and admire the view of Baltimore Harbour and the bay.

# THE LOWER SHANNON

Annacotty: Finnegan's Co Limerick. Road map B5. *Tel* 061 337338.

Originally a 17th-century coach stop, history and folklore permetet his renowned establishment in County Limerick. Finnegan's specializes in steaks and freshly caught seafood. Cosy and extremely friendly.

## Ballyvaughan: Monk's Pub

The Pier, Co Clare. **Road map** B4. *Tel* 065 707 7059.

This quaint pub is situated on the quay. Inside, country furniture and peat fires are matched by local seafood including chowder, served until 9pm. There's live music every Saturday and traditional music on Thursdays in summer. Ring for details.

#### Bunratty: Durty Nelly's Co Clare. Road map B4. Tel 061 364072

Set beside Bunratty Castle, this extremely commercialized pub appeals to locals as well as tourists. The 17th-century atmosphere is sustained by the warren of rooms, inglenook fireplaces and historical portraits. Traditional music is performed most evenings, and wholesome food is available both from the bar and from the two restaurants.

# **Doolin:** McDermott's Roadfoard, Co Clare. **Road map** B4.

Tel 065 707 4328.

No Clare pub is complete without a traditional music session and McDermott's does not disappoint. It has live music every night from St Patrick's Day until late October. A warm welcome and a cold pint are guaranteed by the staff. The original 1867 tiled floor is still in

place. II 🚍 🎜

# **Doolin:** O'Connor's Co Clare. **Road map** B4. **Tel** 065 707 4168.

This famous pub is known to lovers of traditional music the world over. The pub has been in the O'Connor family for over 150 years and combines an authentic grocery store with a lively pub. This is the place for spontaneous music, simple bar food, young company and great "crack". There is music here every night.

# Ennis: The Cloister Abbey St, Co Clare. Road map B4. Tel 065 682 9521.

This recently-refurbished historic pub is situated by the famous Ennis Friary (see p189). The pub's cosy, atmospheric interior is complemented by a patio in summer, and by traditional music on some nights.

#### Ennis: Queen's Front Bar Abbey St, Co Clare. Road map B4. Tel 065 682 8963.

This historical pub lies beside the impressive ruins of Ennis Friary (see p189). It serves superb, traditional Irish food. Good for families, the Queen's welcomes all ages.

Killaloe: Goosers
Ballina, Co Clare. Road map C4.
Tel 061 376791.

This delightfully picturesque waterfront pub on the Ballina side of the river has a thatched roof, traditional interior and a welcoming atmosphere. Noted for its cuisine, Goosers serves fairly pricey seafood in the restaurant and more reasonably priced but satisfying "pub grub" in the rustic bar.

Kilrush: Crotty's Pub Market Square, Co Clare. Road map B4. Tel 065 905 2470. This popular pub was once run by one of the foremost exponents of the concertina, Lizzie Crotty (1885–1960). Today it hosts live traditional music four nights of the week in summer. Tasty bar food is available from 9:30am to 5pm on

Limerick: The Locke
3 George's Quay, Co Limerick.
Road map B4. Tel 061 413733.
Set on a quay on the Shannon, this is a typical black-and-white pub. In summer, it is a favourite port of call for riverside strollers. In winter, blazing fires and snugs make it a cosy spot. Traditional music is played on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday nights.
The restaurant is open all day.

weekdays. 11 📻 🕹 🎵

Limerick: Nancy Blake's
Upper Denmark St, Co Limerick.
Road map B4. Tel 061 416443.
Limerick's best-known bar, Nancy
Blake's has much to offer in the
way of good "crack" and
traditional music. If you prefer
rhythm and blues, try the
adjoining Outback Bar. The cosy
main bar serves soup and sandwiches at lunchtime. Music is
played from Monday to
Wednesday, and Saturday.

## THE WEST OF IRELAND

Aran Islands: Joe Watty's Pub Kilronan, Inishmore, Co Galway. Road map 84. Tel 099 61155. Set along the road between Kilronan and Kilmurvy Bay, this island pub is noted for its informality and huge, hearty portions of food. Passers-by appreciate the lamb stews, soups, sandwiches and stout.

**Clarinbridge:** *Moran's Oyster Cottage* 

The Weir, Kilcolgan, Co Galway. **Road map** B4. *Tel* 091 796113. Set in a thatched cottage, this bar was a regular port of call for crews from passing "hookers" (traditional ships). Nowadays, you can sample all kinds of seafood here, though Moran's (see p338) is best known as an oyster bar – the owner holds the local speed record for shelling oysters. You can watch fishermen at work from the terrace tables.

Clarinbridge: Paddy Burke's Oyster Inn

Co Galway. **Road map** B4. **Tel** 091 796226.

Founded in 1835, this authentic thatched pub has leaded windowpanes and a charming beamed interior. Apart from the renowned Clarinbridge oysters and buffet lunches, gourmet menus are also available at lunch and dinner.

Clifden: EJ Kings
The Square, Co Galway.
Road map A3. Tel 095 21330.
This spacious, bustling pub is situated on several floors, with the ground floor the most appealing. Seafood platters or varied pub fare can be enjoyed by the peat fire. In summer, live music is often on offer, especially folk and ballads.

The staff are exceptionally

friendly. II F

Galway: Busker Brownes
Cross 5t Upper, Co Galway.
Road map B4. Tel 091 563377.
This barn-like city pub occupies
several storeys, including the
shell of a 16th-century convent
on the top floor. The Slate House,
the pub next door, is under the
same management, and both are
popular with local students.
There are jazz sessions on
Sundays.

**Galway:** Cooke's Thatch Bar Cooke's Corner, 2 Newcastle Rd, Co Galway. **Road map** B4. **Tel** 091 521749.

Situated on the outskirts of Galway, this traditional thatched inn has passed into new ownership after seven generations in the same family, but is still renowned for its friendliness. The pub includes an off-licence with over 20 wines on sale as well as beer and spirits.

Galway: Dew Drop Inn
Mainguard St, Co Galway.
Road map B4. Tel 091 561070.
Locally known as Myles Lee, this
is an intimate, vintage pub that
encapsulates Galway's Bohemian
traditions. The authentic low level
lighting makes this pub a comfy
place, especially on cold nights
when the log fire is crackling. The
Dew Drop serves one of the best
pints of Guinness in town.

**Galway:** The King's Head 15 High St, Co Galway.

Road map 84. Tel 091 566630. Founded in 1649, this historic pub is adorned with a bow-fronted façade. The homely interior contains 17th-century fireplaces. Simple lunch snacks are served in the main bar. In the back bar, various live bands playing in the evenings attract a youthful crowd.

## 录 & 月

Galway: McSwiggan's Eyre St, Wood Quay, Co Galway, Road map B4. Tel 091 568917. In the centre of the city, this snug, relaxing bar has terracotta floors and comfortable seats. It features music on Thursday and Friday.

11 E.

Galway: O'Flaherty's Great Southern Hotel, 15 Eyre Sq, Co Galway. Road map B4.

Tel 091 564041.
This solid cellar bar began as wine cellars but now offers cosy snugs and railway memorabilia. The popular pub provides a contrast to the more sophisticated hotel cocktail bar on the floor above. A carvery lunch is on offer daily in the bar, while at weekends live popular music sessions draw locals and visitors alike.

**Galway:** The Quays Quay St, Co Galway. **Road map** B4. **Tel** 091 568347.

The Quays was originally a small thatched cottage but the building was knocked down to make way for this three-storyed bar. The top floor is a circular mezzanine that overlooks the rest of the bar. A good venue for music, the traditional music nights are Friday to Sunday evenings between 6 and 8pm. Hearty lunches are served daily. Outside seating during the summer months.

Galway: Ti Neachtain
Quay St, Co Galway.
Road map B4. Tel 091 568820.
Set in the "Latin Quarter", this
18th-century town house boasts a
distinctive oriel window. Inside,
a musty wood interior is home
to old-world snugs and friendly
service. Traditional music can often
be heard here, and upstairs is Ard
Bia restaurant.

Killala: Golden Acres Co Mayo.
Road map B2. Tel 096 32183.
This comfortable pub is located near the major activity centres of the area. Deep-sea fishing, golf and boat trips are all within walking distance of this homely country bar. It features good pub food and a fully-equipped sports hall, with pool and darts.

Maam Cross: Peacocks Hotel Connemara, Co Galway. Road map B3. *Tel* 091 552306. Next to a replica of the traditional cottage used in the 1950s John Wayne film *The Quitet Man* is a hotel complex with a modern pub. It is highly popular with locals and a good choice of pub food is available daily, Music every weekend.

Westport: The Asgard Tavern The Quay, Co Mayo. Road map B3. Tel 098 25319.

This old inn facing the pier and Clew Bay is decorated with a nautical theme. Both the main downstairs back bar and the upstairs restaurant provide excellent seafood and salads. The small downstairs front bar is the most atmospheric.

Westport: Matt Molloy's Bridge St, Co Mayo. Road map B3 Tel 098 26655.

Founded by the flautist from the traditional Irish folk band The Chieftains, this deceptively spacious pub is designed along equally traditional lines. There is live music in the back room every evening, when the pub is packed. No children after 9pm.

## **NORTHWEST IRELAND**

Burtonport: The Lobster Pot Co Donegal. Road map C1. Tel 074 954 2012.

This cosy pub lies near the pier. The old timber surrounds of the interior are used as a backdrop to an incredible selection of Gaelic sporting memorabilia. The seafood is renowned as the best, but other good dishes are served as well. Drop by for a good meal, some chat and great conversation pieces.

Crolly: Leo's Tavern
Menaleck, Co Donegal.
Road map C1. Tel 074 954 8143.
Owned by the father of modern
folk musicians Clannad and of
the singer Enya, this friendly pub
attracts locals and tourists for its
sing-songs round the accordion,
and traditional music nights.

11 麻 占 月

Culdaff: McGrory's Co Donegal. Road map C1. Tel 074 937 9104.

On the idyllic Inishowen Peninsula (see pp226-7), this is a place of quality food and drink. McGrory's restaurant caters for up to 60 diners in a comfortable yet stylish setting. The Backroom Bar, also located in the pub, is a top music venue, featuring live music of all kinds.

Donegal: O'Donnell's
The Diamond, Co Donegal.
Road map C2. Tel 074 972 1049.
Regularly winning awards for food and service, this cheerfully decorated pub showcases some of the finest food in Donegal.
Local musicians entertain during the Saturday night traditional music sessions.

Dromahair: Stanford's Inn Main St, Co Leitrim. Road map C2. Tel 071 916 4140.

Set in a picturesque village, this traditional pub has been in the same family for generations. The tiny, quaint Biddy's Bar remains unchanged, adorned with family portraits and old grocery jars. The main bar has mellow brickwork and flagstones from a ruined castle. Delicious food is on offer all day in the restaurant, and in summer there are often impromptu evening music sessions.

Rossnowlagh: Smugglers' Creek Inn

Co Donegal. **Road map** C2. **Tel** 071 985 2366.

On a clifftop overlooking Donegal Bay, this pub is popular with surfers and other water sports enthusiasts. Bar food is served in the beer garden, which offers panoramic views.

**Sligo:** The Blue Lagoon Riverside, Co Sligo. **Road map** C2. **Tel** 071 914 2530.

Enjoy drinks, lunch, teas, coffees and snacks in one of Sligo's most original settings on the Garavouge River just five-minutes' walk from the town centre. There is occasionally live music on weekends.

日童色月

**Sligo:** Hargadon's O'Connell St, Co Sligo.

Road map C2. Tel 071 917 0933. This legendary pub has a beau-tifully unspoil interior. It offers delicious bar food, cosy snugs and great pints. A separate dining room is also available for a slightly more formal experience. In the summer the beer garden is a cool place to relax, attracting great crowds.

Sligo: McGraths
Tobbergal Lane, Co Sligo.
Road map C2. Tel 071 914 3031.
This pub has recently changed hands, and the new owner has created a friendly ambience for Sligo Rovers Football Club supporters. There is a live acoustic session on Thursdays or Sundays.

日本と月

## THE MIDLANDS

Abbeyleix: Morrissey's Main St, Co Laois. Road map C4. Tel 0502 31233. If driving through County Laois, it is worth stopping at this

If driving through County Laois, it is worth stopping at this genuinely traditional pub. The 18th-century inn was remodelled in the Victorian era and has stayed the same ever since. The grocery section survives while the plain and unpretentious bar serves simple bar snacks.

Carlingford: PJ O'Hare's Anchor Bar

Tholsel St, Co Louth. **Road map** D3. *Tel* 042 937 3106.

Known locally as PJ's, this atmospheric pub and grocery store is popular with sailors and locals alike. A friendly and often eccentric welcome is matched by bar food such as oysters and sandwiches. Music is played in the summer.

田爾色月

Crinkill: The Thatch Birr, Co Offaly. Road map C4. Tel 0509 20682.

Mooted as *the* traditional pub, the Thatch is one of the oldest pubs in South Offaly and, as its name suggests, has always been thatched. It has won All Ireland Pub of the Year five times and certainly lives up to its reputation. Children are welcome.

**Dundalk:** The Jockeys Anne St, Co Louth. **Road map** D3. **Tel** 042 933 4621.

This friendly pub offers home-cooked lunches daily at very reasonable prices. The walls are covered in Gaelic Athletic Association mementos (see p29), portraying its proud Gaelic sports' tradition. This pub has been in existence, in one guise or another, since 1799 and is an ideal stop for refreshment on the way north.

11 麻 6 月

Kilbeggan: Locke's Distillery Museum

Museum Mullingar, Co Westmeath.

Road map C3. Tel 0506 32307. As well as being the oldest licensed pot still distillery in the world (established in 1757), this historic complex has a whiskey bar – the ideal place to sample a few brands before buying (see p249). There is an adjoining restaurant.

Kilnaleck: The Copper Kettle Co Cavan. Road map C3. Tel 0494 336223.

This lively family-run pub has a wonderful atmosphere. It is well known for its wholesome, home-cooked meals, served all day. There's entertainment every Saturday night during the summer months.

**Kinnitty:** The Dungeon Bar Birr, Co Offaly.

Road map C4. Tel 0509 37318.
Sited in the basement of medieval Kinnitty Castle, less than a mile from Kinnitty village, this candle-lit bar is not quite as spooky as it sounds. Historic Irish memorabilia covers the walls and the food and drinks are well presented. There's traditional Irish music to stir the atmosphere on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Ti

**Longford:** Edward Valentine's

Main St, Co Longford.

Road map C3. Tel 043 50904.
Relax in Edward Valentine's wonderful, warm, old-world atmosphere. A carvery lunch is served daily and there is also a bar menu, which is served throughout the day.

Portlaoise: The Thatched Village Inn

Co Laois. **Road map** C4. **Tel** 0502 35126. Located at the foot of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, this is a

Located at the foot of the Slieve Bloom Mountains, this is a homely little place, offering warmth and good food after a day of hiking or cycling. This charming pub has a thatched roof and a traditional interior, largely unchanged since it opened. Traditional music and set dancing are enjoyed throughout the year.

**Portlaoise:** *Tracey's Pub and Restaurant* 

The Heath, Co Laois.

Road map C4. *Tel* 0502 46539. This charming thatched cottage pub and restaurant is 5 km (3 miles) outside of the town, but is well worth the journey. It is the oldest family-run pub in these parts, and there is a good range of pub grub (roasts, fish, salads) as well as prime steak at amazingly reasonable prices.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

**Ardglass:** The Lighthouse Bar Bath St. Co Down.

Road map E2.

Tel 028 4484 1443.

Come to the Lighthouse in the typical fishing town of Ardglass to talk net mending, baiting and sailing over a pint with locals. A unique experience in a beautiful rural setting.

**Bangor:** *Jenny Watt's* 41 High St, Co Down. **Road map** E2. **Tel** 028 9146 0682.

Likable and very popular, this bar with Victoriana trimmings is found in the centre of town. The walls are adorned with local photos and memorabilia. There's live jazz at Sunday lunch times, traditional on Tuesday and folk music on Thursday nights. Bar food is served until 7pm, and there's a beer garden.

**Belfast:** Crown Liquor Saloon 46 Great Victoria St, Co Antrim.

Road map D2. Tel 028 9027 9901. This Victorian gin palace ranks as one of the most gorgeous bars in Ireland (see p277). Lunch includes several local specialities, such as Irish stew and champ, but the Strangford Lough oysters really do stand out. Robinson's, the pub next door, is particularly lively in the evening.

Belfast: Irene and Nans
12 Brunswick St, Co Antrim.
Road map D2. Tel 028 9023 9123.
Conveniently located next to the
Grand Opera House, this stylish
bar echoes with the spirit of the
1950s. The superb cocktail list and
great menu make this the perfect
place to be seen, with evening
entertainment from Monday to
Thursday. The staff are welltrained and courteous.

Belfast: Lavery's Gin Palace
12–14 Bradbury Place, Co Antrim.
Road map D2. Tel 028 9087 1106.
Yet another of Belfast's fine old
gin palaces. Bar food served at
lunch and discos in the evenings.
It is popular with students from
Queen's University. II & F

**Belfast:** White's Tavern Winecellar Entry, Co Antrim. **Road map** D2. **Tel** 028 9024

Road map D2. Tel 028 9024 3080. Just one of several daylight-free pubs tucked away in the Entries (see p.277) sector of Belfast city that are best at lunch time when decent, reasonably priced pub food is served. White's lays claim to be the oldest bar in the city. Other pubs in this series of alleys that are worth a look include the Morning Star and the Globe.

11 色月

**Broughshane:** The Thatch Inn 57 Main St, Co Antrim.

Road map D2. Tel 028 2586 2727.

This old-thatched pub in the ancient village of Broughshane exudes charm, character and warmth. The Thatch Inn is well known for great food, warm welcomes and live music.

**Bushmills:** Bushmills Inn 9 Dunluce Rd, Co Antrim.

Road map D1. Tel 028 2073 2339.

Set in an old coaching inn, this cosy bar is lit by gaslights. There is also an excellent restaurant on the premises.

**Enniskillen:** Blake's of the Hollow

6 Church St, Co Fermanagh.

Road map C2. Tel 028 6632 2143.

One of a number of popular town-centre pubs, Blake's dates back to Victorian days and has many of its original fittings.

11 占月

Hillsborough: Plough Inn

The Square, Co Down.

Road map D2.

Tel 028 9268 2985.

This typical village pub, dating from the 1750s, has wooden ceiling beams and a selection of crockery, china and other ornaments on the walls. There's a bistro upstairs open during the day, serving oysters, and a nice beer garden. The Hillside, just down the main street, is also worth a visit.

Londonderry: The Park Bar 35 Francis St, Co Londonderry. Road map C1. Tel 028 7126 4674. A warm, welcoming, family-run bar close to the city centre and adjacent to St Eugene's Cathedral. The usual choices of European lagers and Guinness are on tap. During term time, students play traditional Irish music on Monday nights.

Omagh: Molly Sweeney's Gortin Rd, Co Tyrone. Road map C2.

**Tel** 028 8225 2595.

Molly Sweeney's is practically a museum to Irish drinking life. An eccentric mix of decorations furnish its many rooms – the Library Lounge, the Snug Bar, the Celtic Room and the Gothic Tower. Along with good food and drink, this place is very welcoming to visitors. It also has a nightclub with DJs. 11 & 17

Portadown: Jameson's Thomas St, Co Armagh. Road map D2.

Tel 028 3833 4644.

In Jameson's beautiful lounge bar, guests are entertained with disco and dance music every night, and bar snacks are available all day. Upstairs at Toddy's Steakhouse, enjoy good food including sandwiches and traditional pub grub.

# SHOPPING IN IRELAND

reland offers a wide range of handmade goods, usually regionally based and highly individual. Its most renowned products include chunky Aran sweaters, Waterford crystal, Irish linen, handloomed Donegal tweed and tasty farmhouse cheeses. The thriving crafts industry is based on traditional products with an innovative

twist. Typical of contemporary Irish crafts are good design, quality craftsmanship and a range spanning



Linen shirt and tweed waistcoat

Celtic brooches, bone china, knitwear and designer fashion, carved bogwood and books of Irish poetry. Kitsch souvenirs also abound, from leprechauns and shamrock emblems to Guinness tankards and garish religious memorabilia. In the directory on page 355, a map reference is given for each address. Dublin shopping is

covered in detail on pages 104–107. Road map references are to the towns and cities on the inside back cover.



Fruit and vegetable market in Moore Street, Dublin

#### WHERE TO SHOP

The choice of places to shop in Ireland ranges from tiny workshops to large factory outlets, and from elegant boutiques to high-street chain stores. Bargains can often be had at bric-à-brac shops and local markets, although the banter is sometimes the best thing on offer. This guide lists market days for every town featured. Sometimes the best produce or products are to be found off the beaten track; locals are always happy to let vou know where.

### WHEN TO SHOP

Most shops are open from Monday to Saturday, 9am to 5:30 or 6pm. In shopping centres and large towns, shops tend to have at least one latenight opening, usually on Thursday or Friday (Thursday in Dublin). In tourist areas, craft shops are generally open on Sundays too. Shops are closed at Easter and Christmas and on St Patrick's Day but are open on most other public holidays. In Killarney, Ireland's tourist capital, most shops are open until 10pm in summer.

## HOW TO PAY

Major credit cards are generally accepted in department stores and larger retail outlets, but smaller shops prefer cash. Most traveller's cheques are accepted in major stores with a passport as identification.

#### SALES TAX AND REFUNDS

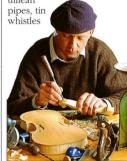
Most purchases are subject to VAT (sales tax) at 21 per cent, included in the sales price. However, visitors from outside the European Union (EU) can reclaim VAT prior to departure. When shipping goods overseas, refunds can be claimed at the point of purchase. If taking your goods with you, look for the CashBack logo in shops, fill in the special voucher, then visit CashBack offices at Dublin or Shannon Airport.

#### BOOKS

Reading is a national passion in Ireland, so bookshops are generally very good. In bigger shops expect solid sections on Irish archaeology and architecture, folklore, history, politics and cuisine. Eason and Son is one of the most widespread bookstore chains in the country with a large collection of Irish literature and newspapers. Seek out the smaller, "Irish Interest" shops too. In Galway, Kenny's Bookshop and Art Gallery is packed with both new and second-hand books.

## MUSIC

Traditional musical instruments (see pp24–5) are made in many regions, especially County Clare, also known as the "singing county". Handmade harps are a speciality in Mayo and Dublin. Instruments such as handcrafted bodbráns, uillean



A traditional fiddle maker in his workshop in Dingle



Kylemore

Abbey teapot

Colourful bric-à-brac shop in Kilkenny

and fiddles are on sale throughout Ireland. There are several specialist record shops that sell traditional Irish recordings. **Golden Discs** is a chain of music stores, and stocks a good selection of traditional Irish music.

#### FOOD AND DRINK

In recent years, markets have become a popular way to shop for food in Irish cities. Most of what's on offer is produced locally under organic conditions. Smoked salmon, home-cured bacon, farmhouse cheeses, soda bread, preserves and handmade chocolates make

perfect last-minute gifts. Guinness travels less well and is best drunk in Ireland. Irish whiskey is hard to beat as a gift or souvenir. Apart from the cheaper Power's and Paddy brands, the big names are Bushmills (see p266) and Jameson (see p179). Rich Irish liqueurs include Irish Mist and Baileys Irish Cream.

#### CRAFTS

Crafts are a flourishing way of life in rural Ireland, and the distinctive products can be purchased from either city department stores or workshops and individual vendors. The Crafts Council of Ireland has branches in Dublin and Kilkenny, and can recommend good small-scale outlets in the country. Tourist offices also provide lists of local workshops, where you can watch the production

process. Craft shops, such as the Kilkenny Design Centre and Bricín, sell good examples of different crafts. In Cork and Kerry there is an abundance of workshops, mainly in Kinsale and Dingle. The Guide to Craft Outlets is available at local tourist

offices. Distinctive products from this area are traditional tiles based on designs found in Kilkenny Cathedral and nearby medieval abbeys. Further west, green Connemara marble is made into "worry stones", harms traditionally

small charms traditionally exchanged between families as marks of long-lasting friendship. Also made in Connemara, particularly Clifden, are wall hangings, hand-knits and woollen rugs.

Other crafts include metalwork, leatherwork and carpentry. Local woods are used for ash or beech furniture, blackthorn walking sticks and sculptures made of 1,000-year-old bogwood petrified wood salvaged from Ireland's unique boglands during turf cutting.

## CRYSTAL AND GLASSWARE

In the wake of Waterford Crystal (see p147), the brand leader, come countless followers. The price depends on reputation, the quantity of lead used in the glass and the labour-intensiveness of the design. Tyrone Crystal rates almost as highly as Waterford and is less expensive. Like Waterford, the factory runs an illuminating tour. Tipperary Crystal offers a range of lines, including trophies and lamps. Galway Irish Crystal is another elegant brand.

In Kilkenny, the famous Jerpoint Abbey inspires local designs by Jerpoint Glass. Decorated with simple yet stylish motifs, the small vases, candlesticks, jugs and bowls make pleasing gifts. Most stores will pack and send glassware overseas for you.

#### CERAMICS AND CHINA

Although more renowned for crystal. Ireland also has many reputable producers of ceramics and china. Established in 19th-century Ulster, Belleek Pottery (see p269) produces creamy china with a lustrous sheen and subtle decorative motifs, including shamrocks and flowers. In Galway, Royal Tara China is Ireland's leading fine bone china manufacturer. with Celtic-influenced designs, while Kylemore Abbey (see p208) specializes in exquisite handpainted pottery. Louis Mulcahy's Pottery, in Ballyferriter, is noted for fine decorative glazes, while in Bennettsbridge, Nicholas Mosse Pottery produces hand-painted designs. Enniscorthy in Wexford is another centre for ceramics.



Pottery display in Kilkenny Design Centre



Sign for the linen department at Brown Thomas store

#### LINEN

Damask linen was brought to Armagh by Huguenot refugees fleeing French persecution during the late 17th century. As a result, Belfast became the world's linen capital. Ulster is still the place for linen, with sheets and double-damask table linen on sale in Belfast at Smyth's Irish Linen, for example - and in other towns. Linen, embroidered by hand, is made in Donegal. Linen-making can be seen at Wellbrook Beetling Mill (see p268).

### KNITWEAR AND TWEED

Aran sweaters are sold all over Ireland, particularly in County Galway and on the Aran Islands themselves. One of Ireland's best buys, these oiled, off-white sweaters used to be handed down through generations of Aran fishermen. Legend has it that each family used its own motifs. If a fisherman died at sea and his body

was unidentifiable, his family could recognize him by his sweater.

Given the Irish experience of wet weather, warm and waterproof clothes are generally of good quality, from waxed jackets and duffel coats to sheepskin jackets. Knitwear is on sale all over Ireland. Avoca Handweavers and Blarney Woollen Mills are the best-known outlets. Good buys include embroidered sweaters and waistcoats as well as hand-woven shawls, hats, caps and scarves.

Donegal tweed is a byword for quality, and is noted for its texture, tension and subtle colours (originally produced by dyes made from lichens and minerals). Tweed caps, scarves, ties and suits are sold in outlets such as Magee and Co in Donegal.



Façade of an antique furniture shop in Kenmare

## **JEWELLERY**

In its golden age, Celtic metalwork was the pride of Ireland (see pp32–5), and many contemporary craftspeople are still inspired by traditional Celtic designs. Handcrafted or factory-made silver, gold and ceramic jewellery is produced in a variety of designs. The Claddagh ring from Galway is the most famous Celtic design – the lovers' symbol of two hands

cradling a crowned heart.

Cahalan Jewellers in County
Galway is one of the most
renowned and has a huge
range of unique Irish and
antique jewellery. For heraldic
jewellery, try James Murtagh
Jewellers in County Mayo.

#### **FASHION**

Inspired by a predominantly young population, Ireland is fast acquiring a name for fashion. Conservatively cut tweed and linen suits continue to be models of classic good taste, though young designers are increasingly experimental, using bold lines and mixing traditional fabrics.

A-Wear is a quality boutique that features funky, young designs for women and has branches in most cities. Here, and in other boutiques and department stores, you will find clothes designed by the best Irish designers, including Quin and Donnelly, Paul Costelloe, John Rocha, Louise Kennedy and Mariad Whisker.

Some new designers, such as Samantha Corcoran, Pauric Sweeney and Antonia Campbell Hughes, have eschewed traditional Irish textiles and forged fresh styles in new materials.

Ladies' fashion and the hottest trends can be found in O'Donnell's in Limerick, while up north, there are many outlets of Clockwork Orange and Fosters Clothing. For a unique boudoir-style shoe shopping experience, try The Pink Room near Carlingford Lough.

For budget clothing Dunnes Stores have branches throughout the Republic and Northern Ireland. Clothing and shoe sizes are identical to British fittings.



Selection of hand-knitted sweaters at a craft shop in Dingle

## DIRECTORY

#### BOOKS

## A.B. O'Connor Bookshop

Shelburne St, Kenmare, Co Kerry. **Road map** B6. **Tel** 064 41578.

## Eason and Son

113 St Patrick's St, Cork, Co Cork. **Road map** C5. **Tel** 021 427 0477.

## Kenny's Bookshop and Art Gallery

High St, Galway, Co Galway.

Road map B4. Tel 091 709 350.

## McLoughlin's Books

Shop Street, Westport, Co Mayo. **Road map** B3. **Tel** 098 27777.

#### MUSIC

## The Dingle Record Shop

Green St, Dingle, Co Kerry. Road map A5. Tel 087 298 4550.

#### **Golden Discs**

Eglinton St, Galway, Co Galway. Road map B4. Tel 091 565988.

### Mulligan Records

5 Middle St Court, Galway, Co Galway. Road map B4.

**Tel** 091 564961.

#### **FOOD AND DRINK**

#### McCambridges

38 / 39 Shop St, Galway, Co Galway. **Road map** B4. **Tel** 091 562259.

#### **Spillane Seafoods**

Lackabane, Killarney, Co Kerry. **Road map** B5. **Tel** 064 31320.

#### CRAFTS

#### Bricín

26 High St, Killarney, Co Kerry. **Road map** B5. **Tel** 064 34902.

#### Crafts Council of Ireland

Castle Yard, Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny. **Road map** C4. **Tel** 056 772 2118.

## Craftworks Shop

Bedford House, Bedford St. Belfast, Co Antrim.

Road map D2. Tel 028 9024 4465.

## Doolin Crafts Gallery

Ballyvoe, Doolin, Co Clare. Road map B4. Tel 065 707 4309.

## Geoffrey Healy Pottery

Rocky Valley, Kilmacanaogue, Co Wicklow. **Road map** D4. **Tel** 01 282 9270.

#### Kilkenny Design Centre

Castle Yard, Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny. **Road map** C4. **Tel** 056 22118.

#### **Keltic Knott**

Main Street, Ballydehob, Co Cork. **Road map** B6. **Tel** 027 61217.

#### Standuin

Spiddal, Co Galway. Road map B4. Tel 091 553357.

## CRYSTAL AND GLASSWARE

## Connemara Marble Factory

Moycullen, Co Galway. Road map B4. *Tel* 091 555102.

#### Galway Irish Crystal Merlin Park, Galway,

Co Galway. Road map B4. Tel 091 757311.

## Jerpoint Glass

Stoneyford, Co Kilkenny. Road map D5. Tel 056 772 4350.

## Sligo Crystal

2 Hyde Bridge, Sligo, Co Sligo. **Road map** C2. **Tel** 071 914 3440.

## **Tipperary Crystal**

Ballynoran, Carrick-on-Suir, Co Tipperary.

Road map C5. Tel 051 640 543.

## Tyrone Crystal

Killybrackey, Coal Island Rd, Dungannon, Co Tyrone. **Road map** D2.

Tel 028 8772 5335.

#### CERAMICS AND CHINA

# Louis Mulcahy's

Pottery

Clogher, Ballyferriter, Tralee, Co Kerry. **Road map** A5. **Tel** 066 915 6229.

## Michael Kennedy Ceramics

Bolands Lane, Gort, Co Galway. Road map B4. Tel 091 632245.

## Nicholas Mosse Pottery

Bennettsbridge, Co Kilkenny. Road map D5. Tel 056 772 7105.

## **Royal Tara China**

Tara Hall, Mervue, Co Galway. Road map B4. Tel 091 705602.

## **Treasure Chest**

31–33 William St, Galway, Co Galway. Road map B4. *Tel* 091 567237.

#### LINEN

## **Forgotten Cotton**

Savoy Centre, St Patrick's St, Cork, Co Cork.

Road map C5. Tel 021 427 6098.

## Smyth's Irish Linen

65 Royal Ave, Belfast, Co Antrim. **Road map** D2. **Tel** 028 9024 2232.

## KNITWEAR AND TWEED

## **Avoca Handweavers**

Kilmacanogue, Bray, Co Wicklow. **Road map** D4.

## Tel 01 286 7466. Blarney Woollen Mills

Blarney, Co Cork.
Road map B5.

# *Tel* 021 438 5280. Magee and Co

The Diamond, Donegal, Co Donegal. Road map C2. Tel 074 972 2660.

#### Quills Woollen Market

1 High St, Killarney, Co Kerry. **Road map** B5. **Tel** 064 32277.

Studio Donegal The Glebe Mill, Kilcar, Co Donegal. Road map B2. Tel 074 973 8194.

## **JEWELLERY**

## Cahalan Jewellers

Main St, Ballinasloe, Co Galway. **Road map** B2. **Tel** 905 42513.

## Cladagh Jewellers

24 Main St, Killarney, Co Kerry. **Road map** B5. **Tel** 064 32720.

## **Hilser Brothers**

Grand Parade, Cork, Co Cork. **Road map** C5. **Tel** 021 427 0382.

## James Murtagh Jewellers

14 Bridge St, Westport, Co Mayo. **Road map** B3. **Tel** 098 25322.

## Saller's Jewellers

Williamsgate St, Galway, Co Galway. **Road map** B4. **Tel** 091 561226.

## **FASHION**

## A-Wear

110 Patrick St, Cork, Co Cork. **Road map** C5. **Tel** 021 427 2690.

## Clockwork Orange

25/27 Wellington Place, Belfast, Co Antrim. Road map D2. Tel 028 9024 9830.

#### **Fosters Clothing**

5 Strand Rd, Londonderry, Co Londonderry. **Road map** C1. **Tel** 028 7136 6902.

### O'Donnell's

11 Catherine St, Limerick, Co Limerick.

Road map B4. Tel 061 415932.

## The Pink Room

Dundalk St, Carlingford Co Louth. Road map D3.

**Road map** D3. **Tel** 042 9383 6690.

# What to Buy in Ireland

Hundreds of gift and craft shops scattered throughout Ireland make it easy to find Irish specialities to suit all budgets. The best buys include linen, tweeds and crystal from factory shops which invariably offer an extensive choice of good quality products. Local crafts St Brigid's cross make unique souvenirs, from hand-

made jewellery and ceramics to traditional musical instruments. Religious artifacts are also widely available. Irish food and drink are evocative reminders of your trip.



Traditional hand-held drum (bodhrán) and beater



"worry stone"



Traditional Claddagh ring

Modern jewellery and metalwork draw on a long and varied tradition. Craftspeople continue to base their designs on sources such as the Book of Kells (see p64) and Celtic myths. Local plants and wildlife are also an inspiration. County Galway produces Claddagh rings - traditional betrothal rings - in gold and silver as well as "worry stones".



Fuchsia earring from Dingle



enamel brooch



Bronzed resin Celtic figurine



Donegal tweed jacket and waistcoat





Clothing made in Ireland is usually of excellent quality. Tweed-making still flourishes in Donegal where tweed can be bought ready-made as clothing and hats or as lengths of cloth. Knitwear is widely available all over the country in large factory outlets and local craft shops. The many hand-knitted items on sale, including Aran sweaters, are not cheap but should give years of wear.



Tweed fisherman's hat



Aran sweater

Irish linen is world-famous and the range unparalleled. There is a huge choice of table and bed linen, including extravagant bedspreads and crisp, formal tablecloths. On a smaller scale, tiny, intricately embroidered bandkerchiefs make lovely gifts as do linen table napkins. Tea towels printed with colourful designs are widely available.

You can also buy linen goods trimmed with fine lace, which is still hand-made in Ireland, mainly in Limerick and Kenmare.



Set of linen placemats and napkins



Fine linen handkerchiefs

Irish ceramics come in traditional and modern designs. You can buy anything from a full dinner service by established factories, such as Royal Tara China or the Belleek Pottery, to a one-off contemporary piece from a local potter's studio.



Irish crystal, band-blown and band-cut, can be ordered or bought in many shops in Ireland. Visit

IRISH. ILLUSTRATED BY KAREN BAILEY

**Book of Irish Proverbs** 

Books and stationery are often beautifully illustrated. Museums and bookshops stock a wide range.



Celtic-design cards



the outlets of the principal manu-

facturers, such as Waterford Crystal, Tyrone Crystal and Jerpoint Glass, to see the full range - from glasses and decanters to elaborate chandeliers.

Waterford crystal tumbler and decanter





Jameson whiskey



Bushmills whiskey

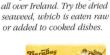


Fruit cake made with Guinness



Food and drink will keep the distinctive tastes of Ireland fresh long after you arrive home. Whiskey connoisseurs should visit the Old

Jar of Irish marmalade





Packet of dried seaweed

## ENTERTAINMENT IN IRELAND

Morris Minor van advertising the

Clonakilty Folk Club

If there is one sphere in which Ireland shines, it is entertainment. For details about entertainment in Dublin, see pages 108–15. Elsewhere

in Ireland, nightclubs and concerts by international entertainers tend to be concentrated in large cities, but many other events including theatre, arts festivals, traditional music and

dance, cultural holidays

and even medieval banquets take place all over the country. Most towns and cities also have one or two cinemas showing the latest movies on release. Not to be overlooked is the free entertainment (planned or spontaneous) provided by a night in a pub. For more active forms of entertainment, covered

on pages 362–7, the list is even longer, from golf to pony trekking and cycling to scuba diving. Those who prefer their sports sitting down can go along as spectators to Ireland's famous horse race meet-

ings, as well as Gaelic football, hurling, soccer and rugby matches. A happy mix of these activities can easily be put together with almost any itinerary.



Ulster Symphony Orchestra at the Ulster Hall in Belfast

#### **INFORMATION SOURCES**

The tourist board for the Republic, Fáilte Ireland, and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (see p371) both publish a yearly Calendar of Events that lists major fixtures around the country, and all the regional tourist offices have information about happenings in each locality. To supplement these listings, check regional newspapers and inquire locally.

## **BOOKING TICKETS**

Tickets can usually be bought at the door on the day or evening of most events. Advance booking is a must, however, for popular concerts and plays. Many cultural and arts festivals require tickets only for the key performances, but for internationally famous festivals, such as the Wexford Opera Festival, you will need to book well in advance through the festival office for all performances.

Credit-card bookings for plays, concerts and other events around Ireland can be made by telephone through **Keith**Prowse Travel (IRL) Ltd and Ticketmaster in Dublin.

#### MAJOR VENUES

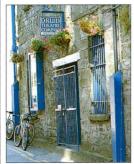
In many Irish cities, the main theatres host a huge variety of events. In Cork, the Opera **House** presents predominantly Irish plays during the summer months, with musical comedy, opera and ballet at other times of year. The city's Everyman Palace Theatre stages plays by local and visiting companies interspersed with concerts of both classical and popular music. Sligo's Hawks Well Theatre and Limerick's Belltable Arts Centre are venues for drama and concerts. In the centre of Belfast, the Grand Opera House, Waterfront Hall and Lyric Theatre present a varied programme, including Irish and inter- national plays, experimental drama, pantomime and opera.

#### **THEATRE**

From international tours to amateur productions, there is excellent theatre to be seen in virtually every location in Ireland. In Galway, the **Druid Theatre** specializes in avantgarde plays, new Irish plays and Anglo-Irish classics, with frequent lunchtime and latenight performances, while Gaelic drama, Irish music, singing and dancing have all thrived at the **Taibhdhearc Theatre** since 1928. Waterford boasts its resident Red Kettle

boasts its resident Red Kettle Theatre Company which performs at the **Garter Lane Theatre**, while the **Theatre Royal** brings amateur drama and musicals to the city.

Keep an eye out for small theatre groups performing in local halls around the country. Many of them are superb and they have spawned several of Ireland's leading actors.



Home of the Druid Theatre Company in Galway (see p210)



The Moscow Ballet at Belfast's Grand Opera House (see p276)

#### CLASSICAL MUSIC, OPERA AND DANCE

Major venues for classical music include the **Crawford Art Gallery**, Opera House and Everyman Palace in Cork; the Théatre Royal in Waterford; the Hawks Well Theatre in Sligo; and the Belltable Arts Centre in Limerick. Belfast's **Ulster Hall** hosts concerts from rock bands to the Ulster Symphony Orchestra.

Opera lovers from around the world come to Ireland for the Wexford Festival of Opera in October and November and the Waterford Festival of Light Opera in late September and early October. At Wexford, neglected operas are revived, while Waterford selects more mainstream operas and musicals. Elsewhere, opera is performed in Cork's Opera House and in Belfast's Grand Opera House.

Îreland has no resident ballet or avant-garde dance companies, but leading international companies perform occasionally at the major venues around the country.

## ROCK, JAZZ AND COUNTRY

When international music stars tour Ireland, concerts outside Dublin are held at large outdoor sites. **Semple Stadium** in County Tipperary and Slane Castle (see p245) in County Meath are popular venues. Tickets and information are available from Ticketmaster.

Musical pubs (see pp346–51) are your best bet for good rock and jazz performed by Irish groups. Check local tourist offices and newspapers for rock and jazz nights, which usually take place midweek, with country and traditional music at weekends. For some

of Ireland's "big band" jazz music, keep an eye out for Waterford's Brass and Co who play at dances around the country. Jazz lovers have a field day at the **Cork Jazz Festival** in late October, when music pours from every pub and international jazz greats play in the city's theatres.



Pub scene at Feakle Traditional Music Weekend, County Clare

## TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE

The country pub has helped keep Irish music alive and provided the setting for the musical revival that began in the 1960s. Today, sessions of informal or impromptu music are still commonplace. In pubs, traditional music embraces ballads and rebel songs, as well as the older *sean-nos* – unaccompanied, understated stories, often sung in Irish.

Nights of Irish music and song are scheduled in many pubs, such as The Laurels and the Danny Mann in Killarney, the Yeats Tavern in Drumcliff, near Sligo, and An Phoenix and The Lobby in Cork. In Derry, the Gweedore Bar, Castle Bar and Dungloe Bar are among the cluster of musical pubs along Waterloo Street. Wherever you are, a query to the locals will send you off to the nearest musical pub. For more pub listings, see pages 346-51.

In Tralee, Siamsa Tíre, the National Folk Theatre, stages marvellous folk drama incorporating traditional music, singing and dance. The Barn, in Bunratty Folk Park, is the setting for a traditional Irish night during the summer months.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, in Monkstown (see p102) has branches around the country and organizes traditional music and dance nights all year. Traditional Irish dancing can be stylish step dancing or joyous set dancing. Visitors are usually encouraged to join in the fun.

The Fleadh Cheoil (national traditional music festival) is a weekend of music, dance, song and stage shows that spill over into colourful street entertainment. It takes place at the end of August in a different town each year. Earlier in August, the Feakle Traditional Music Weekend in County Clare is a more intimate celebration of traditional music, song and dance.



A large audience for open-air music at the Cork Jazz Festival



Knappogue banquet at Knappogue Castle, County Clare

#### **FESTIVALS**

The Irish are experts at organizing festivals, staging a week of street entertainment, theatre, music and dance to celebrate almost everything under the sun (see pp48–51).

In mid-July the lively town of Galway is host to the Galway Arts Festival, one of the largest festivals in Ireland. Here you will find Irish and international theatre and music, street entertainment and events for children. Taking place over one week in late July and early August is the Boyle Arts Festival. The events here include art exhibitions, poetry and drama performances as well as classical, traditional, folk and jazz concerts. Creative workshops are run for both adults and children.

Kilkenny Arts Festival in August, another major festival, features poetry, classical music concerts, movies and a range of crafts. The Cork Film Festival takes place within the first two weeks of October when international feature, documentary and short films are screened at venues all over the city. The Belfast Festival at Queen's is held for two weeks in October to late November. The lively and cosmopolitan programme includes a mixture of drama, ballet, comedy, cabaret, music and film. These take over the Queen's University campus plus theatres and other venues throughout Belfast.

In May, June, and July the County Wicklow Gardens Festival entices gardening enthusiasts to wander around the county's most beautiful gardens. In mid-June, the Music in Great Irish Houses festival opens the doors to many of Ireland's historic homes to which the public seldom has access, with classical music performed by toprate musicians. Venues include Mount Stewart House (see pp282–3) and University College, Cork.



Klikenny Arts Week street theatre

## TRADITIONAL BANQUETS WITH ENTERTAINMENT

Ireland's banquets have gained international fame and are great fun. Each of the banquets features costumed waiters and performers, as well as traditional food and drink of the chosen period.

Most famous are the medieval banquets - the one at Bunratty Castle (see pp192-3) was the first and is the liveliest, with year-round performances. From April to October, there is a medieval banquet at Knappogue Castle (see p189), and at Dunguaire Castle (see p212) there is a quieter, more intimate programme of music and poetry. From March until November, the highly enjoyable Killarney Manor Banquet, held at the stately manor on the Loreto road just south of Killarney, creates an early 19th-century atmosphere.

#### **CULTURAL BREAKS**

A break in Ireland focused on any one of the cultural aspects of Irish life is enriching as well as fun. Choose from a variety of cultural topics and study courses: Irish music and literature, great houses and gardens, Irish language and folklore, crafts and cookery.

One of the most fascinating possibilities is the exploration of Ireland's 5,000-year history as revealed in the many relics strewn across the landscape. The Achill Archaeological Summer School in County Mayo, for example, runs a course that includes the active excavation of ancient sites.

To learn the secret of Irish cooking, there is no better place than the Ballymaloe School of Cookery in County Cork; it is run by Darina Allen, Ireland's most famous cook.

For literature enthusiasts, the Yeats International Summer School studies the works of Yeats and his contemporaries, while Listowel Writers' Week brings together leading writers for lectures and workshops.



Folk dancers in traditional Irish costume

## DIRECTORY

#### BOOKING TICKETS

## Keith Prowse Travel (IRL) Ltd

10 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. *Tel* 01 878 3500.

#### **Ticketmaster**

Grafton House, 70 Grafton St, Dublin 2. **Tel** 01 456 9569.

### **MAJOR VENUES**

## Belltable Arts Centre

69 O'Connell St, Limerick.

Tel 061 319866.

www.belltable.ie

#### Everyman Palace Theatre

MacCurtain St, Cork. **Tel** 021 450 1673.

www.everymanpalace.com

## **Grand Opera House**

Great Victoria St, Belfast. **Tel** 028 9024 1919. **www**.goh.co.uk

## **Hawks Well Theatre**

Temple St, Sligo. **Tel** 071 916 1526.

#### **Lyric Theatre**

55 Ridgeway St, Belfast. **Tel** 028 9038 1081.

#### **Opera House**

Emmet Place, Cork.

Tel 021 427 4308.

www.corkoperahouse com

#### **Waterfront Hall**

2 Lanyon Place, Belfast. *Tel* 028 9033 4455.

#### THEATRE

## **Druid Theatre**

Chapel Lane, Galway. **Tel** 091 568660.

www.druidtheatre.com

## Garter Lane Theatre 22A O'Connell St,

Waterford.

Tel 051 855038.

www.garterlane.ie

#### Taibhdhearc Theatre

Middle St, Galway. **Tel** 091 562024.

## Theatre Royal

The Mall, Waterford. **Tel** 051 874402.

#### CLASSICAL MUSIC, OPERA AND DANCE

### Crawford Art Gallery

Emmet Place, Cork. *Tel* 021 427 3377. www.crawfordart-gallery.com

#### **Ulster Hall**

Bedford St, Belfast.

Tel 028 9032 3900.

www.ulsterhall.co.uk

#### Waterford Festival of Light Opera Theatre Royal, Waterford.

**Tel** 051 874402.

## Wexford Festival of Opera

Theatre Royal, High St, Wexford. *Tel* 053 22144. www.wexfordopera.com

### ROCK, JAZZ AND COUNTRY

#### Cork Jazz Festival 20 South Mall, Cork.

Tel 021 427 0463.

## Semple Stadium

Thurles, Co Tipperary. *Tel* 0504 21308.

## TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE

### Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann

32 Belgrave Sq, Monkstown, Co Dublin. **Tel** 01 280 0295.

### Feakle Traditional Music Weekend

Maghera, Caher, Co Clare.

### The Traditional Irish Night

Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, Bunratty, Co Clare. **Tel** 061 360788.

## Siamsa Tíre

National Folk Theatre, The Town Park, Tralee, Co Kerry. *Tel* 066 712 3055.

### **FESTIVALS**

#### Belfast Festival at Queen's

Festival House, 25 College Gardens, Belfast. *Tel* 028 9097 2626. www.belfastfestival.com

## **Boyle Arts Festival**

King House, Main St, Boyle, Co Roscommon. **Tel** 071 966 3085. www.boylearts.com

### **Cork Film Festival**

10 Washington St, Cork. *Tel* 021 427 1711. www.corkfilmfest.org

### County Wicklow Gardens Festival

St Manntan's House, Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow. **Tel** 0404 20070.

## Galway Arts Festival

Black Box Theatre, Dyke Rd, Terryland, Galway. **Tel** 091 509700. **www**.galwayartsfestival.com

## Kilkenny Arts Festival

9/10 Abbey Business Centre, Kilkenny. **Tel** 056 775 2175. **www**.kilkennyarts.ie

## Music in Great Irish Houses

29 Rose Pk, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin. **Tel** 01 280 9850 (1–6pm). **www**.musicirishhouses com

## **CULTURAL BREAKS**

#### Archaeology Achill Archaeological Summer School

Folk Life Centre, Dooagh, Achill Island, Co. Mayo. *Tel* 098 43564.

www.achill-field school.com

#### Gerard Manley-Hopkins Summer School

Drogheda Street, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare. *Tel* 045 525416.

## Oideas Gael

Gleanncholmcille, Co Donegal. **Tel** 074 973 0248.

# Cookery Ballymaloe School of Cookery

Shanagarry, Midleton, Co Cork. *Tel* 021 464 6785. www.cookingisfun.ie

## Houses, Castles & Gardens of Ireland

16A Woodlands Pk, Blackrock, Co Dublin. **Tel** 01 288 9114. www.gardensireland.com; www.castlesireland.com

#### **National Trust**

Rowallane House, Saintfield, Ballynahinch, Co Down.

**Tel** 028 9751 0721.

## Irish Language Conversation Classes

Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne, Ballyferriter, Co Kerry. *Tel* 066 915 6100.

### Literary Goldsmith Summer

## School

Rathmore, Ballymahon, Co Longford. *Tel* 090 643 2374.

## James Joyce Summer School

University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4. *Tel* 01 706 8480.

## Listowel Writers' Week

24 The Square, Listowel, Co Kerry. *Tel* 068 21074. www.writersweek.je

#### William Carleton Summer School

Dungannon District Council, Circular Rd, Dungannon, Co Tyrone. **Tel** 028 8772 5311.

## Yeats International Summer School

Yeats Society, Yeats Memorial Building, Douglas Hyde Bridge, Sligo. *Tel* 071 914 2693.

www.yeats-sligo.com

### Music South S

South Sligo Summer School of Traditional Music, Song and Dance

Tubbercurry, Co Sligo.

Tel 071 912 0912.

## www.sssschool.org

## Willie Clancy Summer School

Miltown Malbay, Co Clare. Tel 065 708 4148.

## Sports and Outdoor Activities



Sign outside a fishing tackle shop in Donegal

Even in the largest Irish cities, the countryside is never far away, and it beckons alluringly to every lover of the great outdoors. Topping the list of spectator sports is Ireland's famous horse racing, followed by hurling, Gaelic football and soccer, which also make for very exciting viewing. Those who want to do

more than just watch, can choose between fishing, golf, horse riding, sailing, cycling, walking and water sports. Entire vacations can be based around any of these activities. In addition to the contacts on pages 366–7, Fáilte Ireland in the Republic, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and all local tourist offices have information on spectator and participant sports. For details of main events in the sporting calendar, see pages 28–9.



Steeplechase at Fairyhouse Racecourse

#### SPECTATOR SPORTS

The Irish passion for horse racing is legendary. The Curragh (see p129), where the Irish Derby is held, is a leading racecourse. Fairyhouse, the venue for Ireland's Grand National, is a popular spot year round, but especially around Christmas when Dubliners descend to lav bets on the annual races. Punchestown, in County Kildare, has been a fixture of the racing scene for more than 150 years and has a capacity of 80,000 people. Leopardstown in Dublin is also a well-liked track and has year round racing.

Many smaller racecourses, with exciting, informal atmospheres, are found throughout Ireland. Galway Race Week in late July is a great social event. A racing calendar for the whole of Ireland, available from Horse Racing

Ireland, lists National Hunt and flat race meets, which occur on 230 days of the year.

There are also 18 recognized greyhound stadia operating in the Republic. The best known are Dublin's **Shelbourne Park** and **Harold's Cross Stadium**, both of which have excellent dining facilities.

Croke Park is Ireland's most impressive sports stadium and hosts Gaelic football and hurling matches. International rugby and soccer matches are usually held at the Lansdowne Road Stadium. For soccer tickets, contact the Football Association of Ireland. Rugby enthusiasts should get in touch with the Irish Rugby Football Union.

For golfers, the annual highlight is the Irish Open Golf Championship in July. The venue varies from year to year. For tickets and information, contact the **Irish Open Office**.

### **FISHING**

With its abundant coastline and some of the cleanest stretches of freshwater found in all of Europe, Ireland is a paradise for anglers. Coarse, game and sea fishing are all very popular. The lakes and rivers are home to bream, pike, perch and roach. Coastal rivers yield the famous Irish salmon, along with other game fish. The sea trout and brown trout also offer anglers a challenge.

Flounder, whiting, mullet, bass and coalfish tempt the sea angler, while deep-sea excursions chase abundant supplies of dogfish, shark, skate and ling. You can plan sea-angling trips from many different places – the Cork and Kerry coastline is a highly favoured starting point.

Clonanav Fly Fishing Centre near Clonmel, County Waterford, is popular with both novice and experienced anglers as it has superb accommodation, as well as a reliable, experienced staff. Regarded as the best fishing river in the east, River Slaney has many fisheries along its banks. Ballintemple Fishery is a good choice, and offers angling equipment for hire, and instruction if needed. Mike's Fishing Tackle in south Dublin also hires out fishing tackle. Live bait is available for purchase.

Information on the required permits can be obtained from



Fishing in the canal at Robertstown, County Kildare (see p128)



Walking in the Gap of Dunloe, Killarney (see p163)

the Central Fisheries Board in the Republic, and from Inland Fisheries, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Northern Ireland. Contact the Irish Federation of Sea Anglers for useful tips, or in order to book sea fishing trips or courses.

Maps and other information on fishing locations can be obtained from Fáilte Ireland in the Republic, and from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (see pp370–71). It is also worth consulting the Irish Angling Update website, which posts helpful and regularly updated reports on angling conditions throughout Ireland.

### WALKING AND MOUNTAINEERING

A walking holiday puts you in the very middle of the glorious Irish landscape. The network of waymarked trails all over the country cut through some truly breathtaking and lovely areas. Information on long-distance walks is available from Fáilte Ireland and the

Northern Ireland Tourist Board. The loveliest routes include Wicklow Way (see p139), Dingle Way, Kerry Way, Munster Way and Barrow Towpath. Each of these may be split into shorter sections for less experienced walkers or those short of time. The 800-km (500-mile) Ulster Way encircles Northern Ireland,

taking in the spectacular scenery around Giant's Causeway (see pp262–3) and

the peaks of the mountains of Mourne (see pp284–5).

Irish Ways offers walking holidays in the Republic. To find out about organized walks in Northern Ireland, contact the Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs.

An Óige Hill Walkers Club organizes a hike each Sunday on the Wicklow and Dublin mountains for experienced walkers. Once a month, the club's programme includes an introductory hard hike which allows novices to try out more rigorous hiking.

The award-winning Michael Gibbons' Walking Ireland Centre specializes in half-day walks and full-day tours in summer that guide walkers through the landscape and heritage of Connemara.

Skibbereen Historical Walks enables visitors to learn about Ireland's past via Skibbereen, a small town largely associated with the Famine.

Contact the **Mountaineering Council of Ireland** for more details about mountaineering and rock climbing holidays. For any hike, remember to go well-equipped for the highly changeable Irish weather.

#### CYCLING

Ulster Way

Sign for the Ulster Way, the

With the exhilarating range of countryside to be explored, and the largely traffic-free roads, cycling is a pleasure in Ireland. Several organizations such as **Celtic Cycling** offer planned itineraries as well as

accommodation.

Premier Cycling
Holidays have
several bicycle
tours, which
seem to have

trail around Northern Ireland seem to have been designed to ne | maximize the thrill of cycling.

**Dublin Bike Tours** provides interesting guided cycling tours of the city centre following quiet back streets.

For mountain biking, the best source of information is the MTB Commission of Cycling Ireland website.

You can transport your bike fairly cheaply by train or bus. For bike rental, try Raleigh Rent-a-Bike depots, found in both Northern Ireland and the Republic, or the Cycleways outlet in Parnell Street, Dublin.



Cycling through the Muckross House estate near Killarney (see p159)



Golfers at Portstewart in Northern Ireland (see p260)

#### **GOLF**

Out of the 300 or more golf courses spread throughout Ireland, over 50 are championship class. Many of the most beautiful greens verge on spectacular stretches of coast, and are kept in top condition.

In County Kilkenny, the internationally acclaimed golf course, Mount Juliet, was designed by golfing legend Jack Nicklaus. County Kildare's K Club is home to two superb 18-hole championship golf courses. Arnold Palmer designed both, but each has its own characteristics and special set of challenges. Champion golfer Christy O'Connor Junior designed Galway Bay Golf Club. This difficult course, a must for all keen golfers, is dotted with historic ruins dating back to the 16th Horse riding in

Acknowledged as one of the truly great links courses, Portmarnock Golf Club is situated to the north of Dublin, about 19 kms (12 miles) from the city centre. Its quality and location have made it a splendid venue for some of the game's most celebrated events. On the Atlantic coast, Lahinch Golf Club in County Clare is a must for devoted golfers, and is a recognized Mackenzie course.

Northern Ireland's bestknown courses are Royal Portrush Golf Club and Royal County Down Golf Club. The Golfing Union of Ireland, the Irish Ladies Golfing Union and the tourist boards have information on courses, conditions and green fees all over the country. Equipment can be hired at most clubs, but most golfers prefer to bring their own.

## HORSE RIDING AND PONY TREKKING

The Irish are rightly proud of their fine horses. Many riding centres, both residential and non-residential, offer trail riding and trekking along

woodland trails, deserted beaches, country lanes and mountain routes. Dingle, Donegal, Connemara and Killarney are all renowned areas for trail riding – post-to-post and based. Post-to-post trails follow a series of routes with

Killarney accommodation in a different place each night.

Based trail rides follow different routes in one area, but riders return to stay at the same location each night.

Aille Cross Equestrian
Centre in Connemara
provides horseback trail
riding for both experienced
and novice riders. Riders
spend four to six hours a
day on Connemara ponies
or hunting horses. Further
south, Killarney Riding Stables
is located just 2 km (1 mile)
from the heart of Killarney
town. Adventurous riders can
begin the four- or six-day
Killarney Reeks Trail from here.

The Drumgooland House Equestrian Centre is set in 60 acres of County Down's rolling country. An elegant country house on the estate has been fully modernized, yet retains its wonderful 100-year-old character. Enjoyable trail riding, horse riding and pony trekking tours through the Mourne mountains are available.

Five Counties Holidays

include horse riding in different areas of the northwest of Ireland. Also, many riding centres such as Equestrian Holidays Ireland offer guidance and lessons to beginners as well more advanced riders, along with lessons in show jumping.

provides vacations that

### WATER SPORTS

With a coastline of over 4,800 km (3,000 miles), Ireland is the perfect venue for water sports. Surfing, windsurfing, scuba diving and canoeing are the most popular activities, as there are ample facilities along the entire Irish coastline.

Conditions in Sligo are the best in Ireland for surfing, but many other coastal locations offer good conditions. The Irish Surfing Association, the national governing body for surfing and related activities such as knee boarding and body surfing, has plenty of information about surfing in all 32 Irish counties. Windsurfing centres in Ireland are



Surfing at Bundoran, Donegal Bay (see p230)

mainly found near Dublin, Cork and Westport.

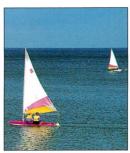
Diving conditions are variable but visibility is particularly good on the west coast. The **Irish Underwater Council** will put you in touch with courses and facilities. **DV Diving** organizes scuba diving courses and offers accommodation near Belfast Lough and the Irish Sea where there are a number of historic wrecks to be explored.

Inland, Lower Lough Erne (see pp270-71) and Killaloe by Lough Derg (see p190) are popular holiday centres. The **Lakeland Canoe Centre** between Upper and Lower Lough Erne gives canoeing courses and also organizes canoeing holidays (with overnight camping), including one down the charming Shannon-Erne Waterway (see p235). From March, Atlantic Sea **Kayaking** organizes one-day outings, as well as two- to eight-day trips around Castlehaven, Baltimore and beyond.

There are several areas all around the coast that are safe for experienced swimmers. Ask locally for details. In Dublin, the popular 40 Foot in Sandycove is a favourite haunt of dedicated sea swimmers. Children are quite safe in the sandy waters inside the harbour while adults can enjoy the deeper waters on the seaward side of the harbour wall. Contact the **Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council** for more details.

## **CRUISING AND SAILING**

A tranquil cruising holiday is an ideal alternative to the stress and strain of driving. and Ireland's 14,000 km (900 mile) of rivers and some 800 lakes offer a huge variety of conditions for those who want a waterborne holiday. Stopping over at waterside towns and villages puts you in touch with the Irish on their home ground. Whether you opt for Lough Derg or elsewhere on the Shannon, or the Grand Canal (see p101) from Dublin to the Shannon, a unique view of the Irish countryside opens up all along the way.



Yachting off Rosslare, County Wexford (see p151)

Running between Carrick-on-Shannon in Country Leitrim and Upper Lough Erne in Fermanagh, is the **Shannon-Erne Waterway** (see p235), a disused canal reopened in 1993. From here it is simple to continue through Upper and Lower Lough Erne (see pp270–71) to Belleek. **Emerald Star** has a fleet of cruisers for use on the waterway.

Shannon Castle Line runs a modern and high-quality fleet of cruisers on the Shannon. Silver Line Cruisers, which also operates on the Shannon, is barely 2 kms (1 mile) from the grand canal, and promises relaxed, uncrowded cruises.

The coast between Cork and the Dingle Peninsula is a popular sailing area. The International Sailing Centre near Cork offers tuition. The Ulster Cruising School in Carrickfergus provides lessons at all levels. More experienced sailors can charter a yacht and sail up the dramatic Irish shore to the western coast of Scotland.

## HUNTING AND SHOOTING

Ireland's hunting season runs from October to March, and although fox-hunting tends to predominate in the Republic (it is banned in Northern Ireland), stag and hare hunts also take place. Contact **The Irish Master of Foxhounds**Association in the Republic, and the Countryside Alliance in Northern Ireland.

Duck shooting is also available. The shooting season is from September to the end of January. Clay-pigeon (year round) and pheasant shooting (November to January) are also popular. Mount Juliet Estate offers guns for hire and supplies cartridges. Colebrook Park in County Fermanagh offers deer-stalking outings and lodging. Northern Ireland's National Countrysports Fair, usually held in May, is a major attraction for game enthusiasts.

The National Association of Regional Game Councils will provide you with details of permits required for hunting.

## SPORTS FOR THE DISABLED

Sports enthusiasts with a disability can obtain details of facilities for the disabled from the Irish Wheelchair Association. Central and local tourist boards and many of the organizations listed in the directory also advise on available facilities. The Share Village provides a range of activity holidays for both disabled and able-bodied people.



Boats moored at Carnlough Harbour on the Antrim coast (see p267)

## DIRECTORY

## SPECTATOR SPORTS

#### Croke Park

Dublin 3. *Tel 01 836 3222*. **www**.crokepark.ie

### **Curragh Racecourse**

The Curragh, Co Kildaire. Road map D4. *Tel 045 441 205*. www.curragh.ie

### **Fairyhouse**

Rataoth, Co Meath. Road map D3. Tel 01 825 6167.

fairyhouseracecourse.ie

#### Football Association of Ireland

80 Merrion Sq, Dublin 2. **Dublin map** F4. **Tel** 01 676 6864. **www**.fai.ie

#### Harold's Cross Stadium

Harold's Cross Rd, Dublin 6. **Tel** 01 497 9023.

#### Horse Racing Ireland

Thoroughbred County House, Kill, Co Kildaire. **Road map** D4. **Tel** 045 842 800.

**www**.hri.ie

#### Irish Open Office

Dartmouth House, Grand Parade, Dublin 6. **Tel** 01 498 0300.

www.nissan-irishopen.ie

## Irish Rugby Football Union

62 Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4. *Tel 01 647 3800*. www.irishrugby.ie

#### Leopardstown

Foxrock, Dublin 18.

Tel 01 289 0500.

www.leopardstown.com

#### Punchestown

Naas, Co Kildaire. **Road map** D4. **Tel** 045 897 704. **www**.punchestown.com

#### Shelbourne Park

Pearse Street, Dublin 2. **Tel** 01 202 6621. **www**.

shelbournepark.com

## **FISHING**

## Ballintemple Fishery

Ardattin, Co Carlow.

Road map D4.

Tel 059 915 5566.

www.ballintemple.com

### Central Fisheries Board

Mobhi Boreen, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. **Tel** 01 837 9206.

## Clonanav Fly Fishing Centre Ballymacarbry,

Co Waterford. **Road map** C5. **Tel** 052 36141. **www.**flyfishingireland.com

## Inland Fisheries

20–24 York St, Belfast. **Road map** D2. **Tel** 028 9025 8873. **www**.dcalni.gov.uk

## Irish Angling Update

www.cfb.ie

Interpoint

## Irish Federation of Sea Anglers

Mr Hugh O'Rorke, 67 Windsor Dr, Monkstown, Co Dublin. *Tel* 01 280 6873. www.ifsa.ie

## Mike's Fishing

**Tackle** 

Patrick St, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin. **Road map** D4. **Tel** 01 280 4177

## WALKING AND MOUNTAINEERING

### An Óige Hill Walkers Club

61 Mountjoy St, Dublin 7. **Dublin map** C1. **Tel** 01 830 4555.

http://homepage.eircom.n et/~thehillwalker/

## Irish Ways Ballycanew, Gorey,

Co Wexford.

Road map D4.

Tel 055 27479.

www.irishways.com

#### Michael Gibbons' Walking Ireland Centre

Market Street, Clifden, Co Galway. **Road map** A3. **Tel** 095 21492. **www.**walkingireland.com

## Mountaineering Council of Ireland

13 Joyce Way, Parkwest Business Park, Dublin 12. *Tel* 01 625 1115. www.mountaineering.ie

## Skibbereen Historical Walks

Skibbereen Heritage Ctr, Skibbereen, Co Cork. **Road map** B6. *Tel 028 40900*. **www.**skibereenheritage. com

## Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs

12B Breda Hse, Drumart Dr, Belfast. **Road map** D2. **Tel** 028 9064 8041. **www**.ufrc-online.co.uk

## CYCLING

## Ardclinis Activity Centre

High St, Cushendall, Co Antrim. **Road map** D1. **Tel** 028 2177 1340. www.ardclinis.com

#### **Celtic Cycling**

Lorum Old Rectory, Bagenalstown, Co Carlow. **Road map** D4. **Tel** 059 977 5282. **www.**celticcycling.com

#### Cycleways

185–6 Parnell St, Dublin 1. **Dublin map** C3. *Tel* 01 873 4748. **www**.cycleways.com

#### **Dublin Bike Tours**

Kinlay Hse, Lord Edward St, Dublin 2. **Dublin map** C3. **Tel** 01 679 0899.

## MTB Commission of Cycling Ireland

www.mtbireland.com
Premier Cycling

## Holidays

Portland, Nenagh, Co Tipperary. **Road map** C4. **Tel** 090 974 7134. **www**.premiercycling.com

Raleigh Rent-a-Bike www.raleigh.ie

## GOLF

#### Galway Bay Golf Club

Renville, Oranmore, Co Galway. **Road map** B4. **Tel** 091 790 500.

## Golfing Union of Ireland

Unit 8, Block G, Business Campus, Maynooth, Co Kildare. **Road map** D3. **Tel** 01 505 4000. **www**.qui.ie

## Irish Ladies Golfing Union

1 Clonskeagh Sq, Dublin 14. *Tel* 01 269 6244. www.ilgu.ie

## The K Club

Straffan, Co Kildare. **Road map** D4. *Tel* 01 601 7200. **www**.kclub.ie

## **Lahinch Golf Club**

Lahinch, Co Clare.

Road map B4.

Tel 065 708 1003.

www.lahinchgolf.com

## Mount Juliet Thomastown, Co Kilkenny,

Road map D5.
Tel 056 777 3604.
www.mountjuliet.com

### Portmarnock Golf Club

Portmarnock, Co Dublin. **Road map** D3. *Tel 01 846 2968*. **www**.portmarnock golfclub.ie

## Professional Golf Association

Dundalk Golf Club, Blackrock, Dundalk, Co Louth. **Road map** D3. **Tel** 042 932 1193. **www**.pga.info

## Royal County Down Golf Club

36 Golf Links Rd, Newcastle, Co Down. Road map E2. Tel 028 7082 2311. www.royalcountydown.

ora

## Royal Portrush Golf Club

Dunluce Rd, Portrush, Co Antrim. **Road map** D1. **Tel** 028 7082 2311. **www**.royalportrush qolfclub.com

## DIRECTORY

## HORSE RIDING AND PONY TREKKING

### Aille Cross **Equestrian Centre** Loughrea,

Co Galway. Road map B4.

Tel 091 841216 www.aille-cross.com

## Association of Irish Ridina

**Establishments** 11 Moore Park.

Newbridge, Co Kildare

Road map D4. Tel 045 431584

MANANA Siro io

## **British Horse** Society

House of Sport. Upper Malone Rd. Belfast

Road map D2. Tel 028 9268 3801. www.bhs.org.uk

### Drumgooland **House Equestrian** Centre

29 Dunnanew Road. Seaforde, Downpatrick, Co Down. Road map F2

Tel 028 4481 1956. www.horsetrek-

ireland com

## **Equestrian Holidays** Ireland

Whispering Pines, Crosshaven, Co Cork. Road map C6.

Tel 021 483 1950. www.ehi.ie

## **Five Counties Holidays**

Ardmourne House, Castlederg, Co Tyrone.

Road map C2. Tel 028 8167 0291.

www.five-countiesholidays.com

## **Killarney Riding Stables**

Ballydowney, Killarney, Co Kerry. Road map B5. Tel 064 31686.

www.killarney-riding-

stables.com

## WATER SPORTS

## Atlantic Sea Kayaking

The Abbev. Skibbereen, Co Cork.

Road map 86 Tel 028 21058

www.atlanticseakayaking.

#### **Baltimore Diving** and Watersports Cantra

Baltimore, Co Cork. Road map B6. Tel 028 20300.

www.baltimorediving.com

### **Dun Laoghaire-**Rathdown County Council

County Hall, Marine Rd, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin, Road map D4. Tel 01 205 4700

## DV Diving

138 Mountstewart Rd. Newtownards, Co Down.

Road map E2. Tel 028 9186 1686. www.dvdiving.co.uk

### Irish Surfina Association

Easkey Surf and Information Centre. Easkey, Co Sligo.

Road map B2. Tel 096 49428. www.isasurf.ie

## Irish Underwater Council

78a Patrick St, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.

Road map D4. Tel 01 284 4601.

## www.scubaireland.com **Lakeland Canoe**

Centre Castle Island, Enniskillen. Co Fermanagh.

Road map C2. Tel 028 6632 4250

#### **CRUISING AND** SAILING

#### **Athlone Cruisers**

Jolly Mariner, Athlone, Co Westmeath. Road map C3.

Tel 090 272892. www.acl.ie

## **Emerald Star**

The Marina. Carrick-on-Shannon Coleitrim

Road map C3. Tel 071 962 7627. www.emeraldstar.ie

#### **Erne Marine**

Rellanaleck Enniskillen. Co Fermanagh.

Road map C2.

Tel 028 6634 8267. www ernemarine.com

## International Sailing Centre

East Beach, Cobh, Co Cork. Road map C6. Tel 021 481 1237. www.sailcork.com

## Lough Melvin **Holiday Centre**

Garrison. Co Fermanagh. Road map C2. Tel 028 6865 8142

www.loughmelvincentre.

## Shannon Castle Line

Williamstown Harbour, Whitegate, Co Clare. Road map C4. Tel 016 192 7042.

www.shannoncruisers.

## Silver Line Cruisers

The Marina, Banagher, Co Offaly. Road map C4.

Tel 0509 51112. www.silverlinecruisers. com

## Tara Cruisers

Unit 12 Market Yard Centre. Carrick-on-Shannon. Co Leitrim.

Road map C3. Tel 071 962 2266.

## **Ulster Cruising** School

com

The Marina. Carrickfergus, Co Antrim. Road map E2. Tel 028 9336 8818. www.silverlinecruisers.

## HUNTING AND SHOOTING

## Colebrook Park

Brookeborough. Co Fermanagh.

Road map C2. Tel 2889 531402

## Countryside Alliance

Larchfield Estate. Railliesmills Road Lisburn, Co Antrim.

Road map D2. Tel 028 9263 9911. www.caireland.org

### The Irish Master of Foxhounds Association Tel 056 772 7211.

www.imfha.com

#### Mount Juliet Estate Thomastown.

Co Kilkenny. Road map D5. Tel 056 777 3000. www.mountjuliet.com

## National Association of Regional Game Councils

6 Sandford Road. Ranelagh, Dublin 6. Tel 01 497 4888. www.nargc.ie

#### National Countrysports Fair

Moira Demesne. Lisburn, Co Antrim.

Road map D2. Tel 2892 662306.

www.irishfieldsports.com

## SPORTS FOR THE DISABLED

## Irish Wheelchair Association

Blackheath Dr. Clontarf, Dublin 3. Tel 01 818 6400 www.iwa.ie

## Share Village

Smith's Strand, Lisnaskea. Co Fermanagh.

Road map C2. Tel 028 6772 2122.

www.sharevillage.org





# SURVIVAL Guide



PRACTICAL INFORMATION 370–381 TRAVEL INFORMATION 382–393

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Although Ireland is quite a small island, visitors should not expect to see everything in a short time, since many of the country's most magnificent attractions are in

the roads are narrow and winding, the pace of life is very slow, banks often open for only one or two days of the week and public transport tends to be infrequent. However, although the Republic of Ireland remains one of



Europe's most unspoiled destinations, its economy is developing fast. Any decent-sized town in the Republic is likely to have a tourist information centre and offer a full range

of facilities for the visitor. Northern Ireland has its own tourist board which also has offices in most towns. The standard of facilities available to those travelling in the North equals that across the border and, as with the Republic, the level of hospitality is first-rate.

#### **TOURIST INFORMATION**

In both the Republic and Northern Ireland there is an impressive network of tourist information offices. As well as providing lots of free local information, the tourist offices in large towns sell maps and guide books and can reserve accommodation for a nominal charge. There are also tourist information points in some of the smaller towns and villages. The opening hours can be somewhat erratic and many are open only during the summer season. The local museums and libraries often stock a selection of useful tourist literature.

Before leaving for Ireland you can get brochures and advice from Tourism Ireland, which has information on both Northern Ireland and the Republic. Their offices can be found in major cities all over the world - a reflection of the universal appeal of Ireland. Fáilte Ireland (the Irish Tourist Board) and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) can also supply you with maps and leaflets. For more local information on sights, accommodation and car rental, it's worth contacting the regional tourist offices in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick.

If you pick up a list of places to stay in a tourist office, it's worth noting that not every local hotel and guesthouse will be included – these lists recommend only those establishments that have been approved by the Tourist Board.



The Heritage Service-run Parke's Castle in County Leitrim (see p233)

**Heritage Card giving access** 

to historic sites

#### **ADMISSION CHARGES**

Most of Ireland's major sights, including ancient monuments, museums and national parks, have an admission fee. For each place of interest in this

guide, we specify whether or not there is a charge. The entrance fees in the Republic of Ireland are normally between 1.50

euros and 6.50 euros, with some offering discounts for students and seniors.

The Irish Heritage Service manages and maintains national parks, museums, monuments and gardens. At most Heritage Service sites you can buy a Heritage Card, which allows unlimited, free admission to all sites managed by the service for a year. At 20

euros for adults, 15 euros for senior citizens, 7.60 euros for children and students, and 50 euros for a family ticket, the card is a good investment. Popular Heritage Service sites include Céide Fields (see

p204), Cahir Castle (see p198) and the Blasket Centre (see p158). Entrance fees in Northern Ireland are about the same as in the Republic, also with discounts offered to students and senior citizens.

North of the border the **National Trust** has a scheme similar to the Heritage Card, but membership costs more (just under £35 per annum per person or under £50 for a family ticket) and there are fewer sites to see. It is only good value for money if you are also planning to visit National Trust sites across the water in Great Britain.



Interpretative centre at Connemara National Park (see p208)

#### **OPENING TIMES**

Opening hours are usually between 10am and 5pm, though some sights close for lunch. Few places are open on Sunday morning. Some museums shut on Monday.

From June to September all the sights are open but crowds are at their biggest. July is the marching season in the North (see p49) and tensions can run high in Belfast and Derry; many shops and restaurants close at this time.

Some attractions close for winter, while others keep shorter hours. Many places open for public holidays such as Easter and then close again until summer.

#### INTERPRETATIVE CENTRES

Many of Ireland's major sights are ruins or Stone Age archaeological sites and can be difficult to appreciate. In recent years, however, money has become available for building interpretative or visitors' centres which explain

the historical significance of sites. Entry to the site may be free, but you have to pay to visit the interpretative centre.

In areas of natural beauty, such as Connemara National Park, an interpretative centre acts as a useful focal point. The centre typically provides information leaflets and has reconstructions of sights. Connemara has 3D models and displays, as well as an audiovisual presentation on the development of the local landscape over the last 10,000 years. There is also a shop for postcards, books and posters.

#### **RELIGIOUS SERVICES**

Ireland is a deeply religious country and for much of the population, churchgoing is a way of life. Because the Republic of Ireland is 95 per cent Roman Catholic, finding a non-Catholic church may sometimes be difficult. In the Republic and Northern Ireland, the tourist offices, hotels and B&Bs all keep a list of local church service times.

## DIRECTORY

## TOURISM IRELAND OFFICES ABROAD

## United Kingdom

For the whole of Ireland: Tourism Ireland UK, Nations House, 103 Wigmore St, London W1U 1QS. *Tel* 0800 039 7000.

www.tourismireland.com

#### **United States**

345 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10154. *Tel* 1 800 223 6470.

www.tourismireland.com

## TOURIST BOARD OFFICES IN IRELAND

#### Fáilte Ireland

Baggot St Bridge, Dublin 2.

Tel 01 602 4000.

www.ireland.ie

### Northern Ireland Tourist Board

St Anne's Court, 59 North St, Belfast BT1 1NB.

Tel 028 9023 1221.
Belfast Welcome Centre:

47 Donegall Place. **Tel** 028 9024 6609.

www.discovernorthernireland.com

### OTHER ADDRESSES

#### **National Trust**

Rowallane House, Saintfield, Ballynahinch, Co Down BT24 7LH. *Tel* 028 9751 0721.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

## The Heritage Service

6 Upper Ely Place, Dublin 2. **Tel** 01 647 2300 or 1890 321421. **www**.environ.ie

ISCCAC

## LANGUAGE

The Republic of Ireland is officially bilingual – almost all road signs have place names in both English and Irish. English is the spoken language everywhere apart from a few parts of the far west, called Gaeltachts (see p229), but now and then you may find signs written only in Irish. Here are some of the words you are most likely to come across.

#### **USEFUL WORDS**

an banc – bank
an lár – town centre
an trá – beach
ar aghaidh – go
bád – boat
bealach amach – exit
bealach isteach – entrance
bus – bus
dúnta – closed
fáilte – welcome
fir – men

gardaí - police

leithreas - toilet

mná – women
oifig an phoist – post office
oscailte – open
óstán – hotel
siopa – shop
stop/stad – stop
ticéad – ticket
traein – train

Sign using old form of Gaelic

## Additional Information



**European Youth Card** 

Ireland is divided between the state of the Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland – a part of the United Kingdom. Each has a separate currency, postal service and telecommunications system (see pp376–81). However, there

are many similarities between them: they are part of the European Union, English is their first language and, both north and south of the border, the tourist industry is well established. These two pages describe the regulations that affect the Republic and Northern Ireland, and the special facilities that are available to travellers, including students and the disabled. There is also a general guide to the media in both the North and South as well as a directory of useful names and addresses.

## VISAS

Visitors from the EU, US. Canada, Australia and New Zealand require a valid passport but not a visa for entry into the Republic or Northern Ireland. All others, including those wanting to study or work, should check with their local Irish or British Embassy first. UK nationals born in Britain or Northern Ireland do not need a passport to enter the Republic of Ireland but should take one with them for car rental, medical services. cashing of traveller's cheques or if travelling by air.

## DUTY-FREE GOODS AND CUSTOMS ALLOWANCES

In 1999 the duty-free allowances on goods bought between the Republic of Ireland and other countries were abolished. However, a wide range of items may still be purchased at airport shops and on ferries, including goods that were previously duty-free, such as beers, wines, spirits, perfume and cigarettes. Electrical goods and camera equipment, items which were traditionally considerably cheaper in duty-free, are still on sale at the airport shops but travellers should have some idea of comparative prices for the goods and know the different exchange rates before making an expensive purchase.

## STUDENT INFORMATION

Students with a valid ISIC card (International Student Identity Card) benefit from a range of travel discounts as well as reduced admission to museums and concerts. Buy a Travelsave stamp from any branch of **USIT** and affix it to your ISIC card to get a good discount on Irish Rail, NIR train services and Irish Ferries. A Travelsave stamp



**Shop at Shannon Airport** 



Students at Trinity College, Dublin

will also get you discounts on various rail and bus services in the South and special rates on commuter tickets (Sep-Jun only) in Dublin, Limerick, Cork, Galway and Waterford. In the North, an ISIC card gives a 15 per cent discount on Ulsterbus services and 20 per cent on Belfast Citybus "Gold Card" commuter services. ISIC cards can be obtained from branches of USIT travel in Dublin, Belfast and other college towns.

USIT will also supply nonstudents under 26 with an EYC (European Youth Card) for discounts on air fares, and in restaurants, shops and theatres. Recognized in over 20 European states, the card varies from country to country but can be identified by its distinctive logo.

## FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED

Most sights in Ireland have access for wheelchairs. This book gives basic information about disabled access for each sight, but it's worth phoning to check details. Comhairle provides information for the Republic, publishing county guides to accommodation, restaurants and amenities. In the North, Disability Action can advise on accessibility, while ADAPT provides information and a book on disabled access to over 400 venues in the cultural sector. Both tourist boards also have guides to accommodation and amenities.



Relaxing with newspapers in Eyre Square, Galway

#### RADIO AND TELEVISION

Ireland has three state-controlled television channels, RTE 1, RTE 2, Network 2 and the Irish-language Teilifís na Gaelige (TG4), and one privately run channel, TV3. There are six national radio stations and many local ones.

The five British TV channels can be picked up in most parts of Ireland on Cable TV, which is commonly available in hotels in the Republic.



A selection of daily newspapers from North and South

#### **NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES**

The Republic of Ireland has six national daily papers and five Sunday papers. Quality dailies include the Irish Independent, the Examiner and the Irish Times, the latter being well known for its journalistic excellence. The broadsheets are useful for upto-date information on theatre and concerts. Ireland's daily

tabloid is the Star. The North's top local paper is the Belfast Telegraph, on sale in the afternoon. The province's morning papers, the News Letter and Irish News, are less rewarding.

In larger towns throughout Ireland, British tabloids are on sale. Newspapers such as The Times are also available and cost less than the quality Irish press. Most towns have a local or regional paper, which will tell you what's on and where.

USA Today, Newsweek and Time magazine are sold in major cities but are very hard to find in rural areas.

#### IRISH TIME

The whole of Ireland is in the same time zone as Great Britain, i.e. five hours ahead of New York and Toronto, one hour behind Germany and France, and ten hours behind Sydney. In both the North and the South, clocks go forward one hour for summer time.

#### CONVERSION CHART

## Imperial to Metric

1 inch = 2.5 centimetres 1 foot = 30 centimetres1 mile = 1.6 kilometres 1 ounce = 28 grams

1 pound = 454 grams

1 pint = 0.6 litres1 gallon = 4.6 litres

#### Metric to Imperial

1 millimetre = 0.04 inches 1 centimetre = 0.4 inches 1 metre = 3 feet 3 inches 1 kilometre = 0.6 miles 1 gram = 0.04 ounces1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds 1 litre = 1.8 pints

## DIRECTORY

#### **EMBASSIES**

#### Australia

Fitzwilton House, Wilton Terrace, Dublin 2. Tel 01 664 5300.

#### Canada

65-68 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Tel 01 417 4100.

29 Merrion Rd, Dublin 4. Tel 01 205 3700.

42 Elgin Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel 01 668 7122.

## **USEFUL ADDRESSES**

#### ADAPT

109-113 Royal Avenue, Belfast. Tel 028 9023 1211.

www.adaptni.org

## Comhairle

Hume House, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel 01 605 9000.

www.comhairle.com

## **Disability Action**

189 Airport Rd West, Belfast. Tel 028 9029 7880.

www.disabilityaction.org

19/21 Aston Quay, Dublin 2. Tel 01 602 1600. Fountain Centre, College St, Belfast BT1 6ET. Tel 028 9032 7111, www.usit.ie

### METRICATION

The change towards metrication is slow in Ireland. particularly the North, where distances are still measured in miles. In the Republic, all new road signs show distances in kilometres, but there are still many old ones left that use miles (see p388). However, throughout Ireland all speed limits are shown in miles. In both Northern Ireland and the Republic, fuel is sold in litres but draught beer is always sold in pints. And just to add to the confusion, food may be weighed out either in imperial or in metric measures.

## Ceann Trá Dún Chaoin

One of the new metric road signs used in the Republic of Ireland

## Personal Security and Health

Ireland is probably one of the safest places to travel in Europe. Petty theft, such as pickpocketing, is seldom a problem outside certain parts of Dublin and a few other large towns. Tourist offices and hoteliers gladly point out the areas to be avoided. In the recent past, the main security risk in Northern Ireland has been the threat of bombings, though this has hardly ever affected tourists. In fact, crimes against the individual tend to be fewer than in other parts of the UK and Europe.



Pharmacy in Dublin showing oldfashioned snake and goblet symbol



Pearse Street Garda Station, Dublin

#### PERSONAL SECURITY

The police, should you ever need them, are called the Gardaí in the Republic of Ireland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in the North. Violent street crime in Ireland – North or South – is relatively rare but it's still advisable to take suitable precautions, such as avoiding poorly lit streets in the cities and larger towns. Poverty and a degree of heroin addiction



in inner-city Dublin has been known to cause a few problems, and Limerick isn't the most inviting of places after dark. There have also been a number of racial attacks recently in Dublin. But if you take sensible precautions, avoiding backstreets at night and keeping to the popular and busy areas, there should be little cause for concern. In some of the larger southern towns you may be approached in the street by people asking for money. This rarely develops into a troublesome situation, but it is still best to avoid eve contact and leave the scene as quickly as possible.

#### PERSONAL SAFETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Even at the height of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, there was never a significant threat to the Garda station tourist, and travelling around the province was deemed to be as safe as in the Republic. As long as peace prevails, no extra precautions need to be taken here, but in the event of the Troubles resurfacing, first-time visitors should be prepared for certain unfamiliar situations. When driving, if you see a sign that indicates you are approaching a checkpoint, slow down and use dipped headlights. To keep fuss down to a minimum in these situations, it is a good idea to keep a passport or some other form of identification close at hand. If vou are walking around the city centres of Belfast and Londonderry, you may notice

a strong police or military presence. This is unlikely to inconvenience you. Occasionally, you may be asked by shop security to reveal the contents of your bags – don't be alarmed, this is a routine procedure.

Try to avoid visiting in July, as tensions are higher during the Orange marches (see p49).

#### PERSONAL PROPERTY

Before you leave, make sure that your possessions are insured, as it might be difficult and more expensive to do this in Ireland. Travel insurance for the UK may not cover you for the Republic, so make sure you have an

adequate policy. As pickpocketing and bag-snatching can be a problem in some of the larger towns in the Republic, it's best not to carry around your passport

or large amounts of cash, or leave them in your room. Most hotels have a safe and it makes sense to take advantage of this facility. Those carrying large amounts of money around should use traveller's

cheques (see pp378–9).
When out and about, use a bag that can be

held securely, and be alert in crowded places and restaurants. A money belt may be a good investment.

If travelling by car, ensure all valuables are locked in the boot and always lock the car, even when leaving it for just a few minutes. If visiting Northern Ireland, do not leave any of your bags or packages unattended, as they are likely to result in a security scare.

## LOST PROPERTY AND BAGGAGE ROOMS

Report all lost or stolen items at once to the police. In order to make a claim against your insurance company you need to send in a copy of the police report. Most train and bus stations in the Republic operate a lost-property service but there is no such service in Northern Ireland.

If you wish to do a day's sightseeing unencumbered by baggage, most hotels and some main city tourist offices, both in the Republic and Northern Ireland, offer baggage storage facilities. Ensure all luggage is locked.

## MEDICAL TREATMENT

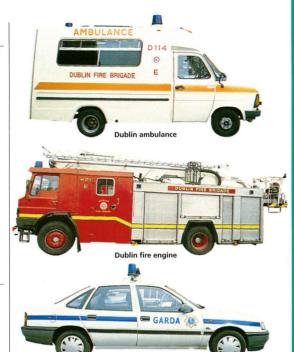
Residents of countries in the European Union, the European Economic Area and Switzerland can claim free medical treatment in Ireland by getting the European Health Insurance Card. Also, be sure to let the doctor know that you want treatment under the EU's social security regulations. In Northern Ireland, British citizens need no documentation.

Non-EU travellers should either have their own travel insurance or be willing to pay for any treatment received up front.

Private health insurance policies may include a certain level of travel coverage. US visitors in particular should check before leaving home



County Donegal



Garda patrol car

whether they are covered by their insurance companies for medical care abroad. You may have to pay first and reclaim costs; if so, be sure to get an itemized bill.

## **PHARMACIES**

A wide range of medical supplies is available over the counter at pharmacies. However, many medicines are available only with a prescription authorized by a local doctor. If you are likely to require specialized drugs during your stay, ensure you take your own supplies along with a copy of the original prescription. You can also ask your doctor to write a letter with the generic name of the medicine you require. Always obtain a receipt for insurance claims.

Up until 1993, condoms were not freely available in the Republic. They are now easy to obtain throughout much of the country, but there are still a few rural areas where availability is limited. Consider taking your own supply.

## DIRECTORY

## **USEFUL ADDRESSES**

## Police, Fire, Ambulance and Coastguard Services

**Tel** Dial 999 in both the Republic and Northern Ireland.

#### **Police Exchange**

For non-emergency police assistance in Northern Ireland. *Tel* 028 9065 0222.

## O'Connell's Late Night Pharmacy

55 O'Connell Street Lower, Dublin. *Tel* 01 873 0427.

## Beaumont Hospital

Beaumont Road, Dublin 9. Tel 01 809 2714.

## **Dublin Dental Hospital**

Lincoln Place, Dublin 2. **Tel** 01 612 7200.

## **Royal Victoria Hospital** Grosvenor Road, Belfast BT12

Grosvenor Road, Belfast BT12 6BA. *Tel* 028 9024 0503.

## **City Hospital**

Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AB. (offers emergency dental treatment) Tel 028 9032 9241.

## **Local Currency**

The Republic and Northern Ireland have different currencies. The euro is the currency in the Republic and the pound sterling is the currency in Northern Ireland, the same as in Great Britain. When travelling between Northern Ireland and the Republic, there's no shortage of money-changers in towns on either side of the border. Look in the daily newspapers for the standard rate of exchange to give yourself a guideline. Some tourist attractions offer money changing facilities but for the best exchange rates use the banks or bureaux de change.



Ulster Bank sub-office in Delvin **County Westmeath** 

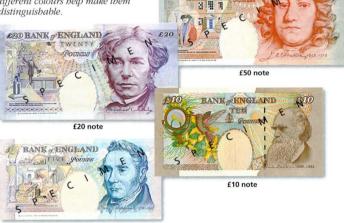
## CURRENCY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland uses British currency the pound sterling (£), which is divided into 100 pence (p). As there are no exchange controls in the UK, there is no limit to the amount of cash you can take into and out of Northern Ireland. In addition to the British currency, four provincial banks issue their

own banknotes (bills), worth the same as their counterparts. To tell them apart, look for the words "Bank of England" on British notes. It is best to use the provincial banknotes in Northern Ireland rather than in Britain some shops may be reluctant to accept notes that are unfamiliar to them.

BANKIFENGLAND

British banknotes are issued in the denominations £50, £20, £10 and £5. Their different colours help make them easily distinguishable.



£5 note

#### Coins

Coins come in the following denominations: £2, £1, 50p, 20p, 10p, 5p, 2p and 1p. All have the Queen's head on one side and are the same as those elsewhere in the UK, except that the pound coin has a different detail - a flax plant - on the reverse side.



10p













## THE EURO

The single European currency, the euro, has been adopted by 12 of the 25 member states of the EU. Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands,

Portugal and Spain chose to join the new currency; the UK, Denmark and Sweden stayed out, with an option to review their decision at a later date.

The euro was introduced on 1 January 1999, but only for banking purposes. Notes and coins came into circulation on 1 January 2002.

Irish euro notes and coins can be used in any of the 12 member states listed. However, with the high cost of living in Ireland, they go less far here than in some neighbouring European countries.

#### **Banknotes**



The euro has eight coin denominations: 2 euros and 1 euro (gold and silver); 50 cents, 20 cents, 10 cents (gold); 5 cents, 2 cents and 1 cent (bronze). The reverse sides of all coins are the same in all euro-zone countries, while the obverse sides are different in each state.







2 cents 1 cent

## Banks in Ireland

The opening times of banks in Ireland vary depending on whether the banks are situated in the town or country, in the Republic or Northern Ireland. Both north and south of the border, banks in small towns are often sub-offices where banking services may be provided on only one or two days of the week, so it's advisable to make the most of facilities in the bigger towns whenever you can. Banks throughout Ireland generally provide a very good service and, along with many of the larger post offices, will exchange traveller's cheques, often without charging commission.

Northern

AutoBank

Bank machine

## **USING BANKS**

The five retail banks in the Republic of Ireland are the Bank of Ireland, the Allied

Irish Bank (AIB), the Ulster Bank, the National Irish Bank and the Permanent tsb. In Northern Ireland there are four retail banks: the Ulster Bank,

the Bank of Ireland, the Northern Bank and the First Trust Bank.

In the Republic of Ireland the usual banking hours are Monday to Friday from 10am to 12:30pm and from 1:30 to 4pm, but most branches now stay open during lunch time. There is extended opening (till 5pm) on one day of the week. In Dublin, Cork and most other cities and towns, late opening is on Thursdays but in rural areas banks often stay open late on market day instead. Some rural areas are visited once or twice a week by a mobile

bank. Check locally for days and times. Branches of the Permanent tsb remain open at lunch time and up to 5pm on weekdays. Most banks in Northern

Ireland open from 10am till 4pm, though a few close for lunch between 12:30 and

> 1:30pm. In both the Republic and in Northern Ireland, all banks close on public holidays, some of which differ from North to South (see p51). Banks in the cities and most towns have automated teller machines (ATMs), or cash dispensers, so if the local bank is



Sneem, County Kerry

#### CREDIT CARDS

Throughout Ireland you can pay by credit card in most hotels, petrol (gas) stations, large shops and supermarkets. Keep in mind that you will need your PIN. VISA and MasterCard are the most commonly accepted. Fewer businesses take American Express and Diners Club cards. Cash can be withdrawn from most ATMs using a credit card.

#### TRAVELLER'S CHEQUES

Traveller's cheques are the safest way to carry around large amounts of money. These are best changed at one of the main banks but, failing this, many shops and restaurants accept them usually for a small charge.

Traveller's cheques can be bought before setting out at American Express, Travelex,



First Trust

**Bank logo** 

closed, it isn't necessarily a major catastrophe.



Ornate post office and bureau de change in Ventry, County Kerry

or your own bank. In Ireland, traveller's cheques can be purchased at banks and from bureaux de change, which can be found in the larger cities and at airports.

#### TRANSFERRING MONEY

The cheapest way to get money from home is to have your own bank wire funds to a bank in Ireland. This process is very slow, often taking several days; it's much faster, though expensive, to get money sent through a dedicated money transfer company such as Western Union (tel: 1800 395395).



Drawing money from an Allied Irish Bank ATM

#### **BUREAUX DE CHANGE**

In addition to the foreign exchange counters at the main banks, there are some private bureaux de change in Dublin. As with most other exchange facilities, bureaux de change stay open later than banks. However, it's worth checking their rates before undertaking any transactions.

## **BUREAUX DE CHANGE**

#### **American Express**

41 Nassau Street, Dublin 2. Tel 1 890 205511. Branches also at Dublin Tourism Centre, Suffolk Street & Killarney.

## **Thomas Cook**

51 & 118 Grafton Street, Dublin 2. Tel 01 677 1721.

11 Donegall Place, Belfast. Tel 028 9088 3900.

## **Travelex**

Belfast International Airport. Tel 028 9444 7500. www.travelex.com

## Sending a Letter



Northern Ireland Post Office sign

Main post offices in the Republic and Northern Ireland are usually open from 9am to 5:30pm during the week and from 9am to around 1pm on Saturdays, although times do vary. Some smaller offices close for lunch on weekdays and do not open on

Saturdays. Standard letter and postcard stamps can also be bought from some corner shops. The Republic of Ireland does not have a first- and second-class system, but sending a postcard is a few cents less

expensive than a letter. Though it is improving all the time, the postal service in the Republic is still quite slow - allow three to four days when sending a letter Republic of Ireland Post Office logo to Great Britain and at



least six days for the United States. Swiftpost guarantees delivery within two working days. In Northern Ireland, letters to other parts of the UK can be sent either firstor second-class, with most first-class letters reaching their UK destination the next day. The cost of a letter from Northern Ireland is the same to all EU countries.

#### **POSTBOXES**

Postboxes in Ireland come in two colours - green in the Republic and red in the North. Many of Ireland's postboxes are quite historic. Some of those in the Republic even carry Queen Victoria's monogram on the front, a relic from the days of British rule. Even the smallest towns in Ireland have a postbox, from which the mail is collected regularly - anything from once to four times daily.





Letter stamps used in the Republic of Ireland





First-class and second-class stamps used in the North



Postbox in the Republic

Northern Ireland double postbox

## Using Ireland's Telephones



eircom phonebox

The Republic's national telephone company, eircom (previously Telecom Eireann), once ran all the telephone services in the country, but changes in the law have meant that other companies can now provide public phones. Eircom's service includes up-to-date coin, card and credit card telephones that provide a modern, efficient service. For those intending to spend more than 5 euros on calls during their stay, it is worth using a phonecard, as

these offer discounts. Northern Ireland uses British Telecom public phones. Both BT and eircom phonecards are available from post offices, supermarkets and other retail outlets.

#### PHONING FROM THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Cheap call rates within the Republic and to the UK are from 6pm to 8am on weekdays and all day at weekends. Off-peak times for international calls vary from country to country, but are generally as above.

- To call Northern Ireland: dial 048, then the area code, followed by the number.
- To call the UK: dial 00 44, the area code (minus the

leading 0), then the number.
• To call other countries: dial 00, followed by the country code (for example, 1 for the USA, 61 for Australia), the area code (minus the leading

 Credit cards issued in certain countries including the USA, Australia and Canada are accepted as payment for calls to the country in which the card was issued.



Coffee and computers at the Central Cyber Café in Dublin

#### ACCESSING THE INTERNET

The main cities in the Republic have plenty of public access to computers and the Internet. Public facilities are available free of charge from public libraries, but you may have to book in advance. The easiest and fastest way to access the Internet is at one of the ever-increasing number of Internet cafés found all over Dublin and throughout the country in major towns and cities. The cafés often charge by the half-hour for computer use, so costs can build up quickly especially when including the cost of printed pages. Internet access is often cheaper during off-peak times so check charges beforehand.

## **USING AN EIRCOM PHONE**



Lift the receiver and wait for the dial tone.

0), then the number.

2 Insert your phonecard or credit card into the slot, or deposit any of the following coins: 10c, 20c, 50c, 1, 2. The minimum amount is 40c. Dial the number and wait to be connected.

The display indicates how much credit you have left. A rapid bleeping noise means your credit has run out. Insert more coins or another card.

4 If you want to make a further call and you have credit left, do not replace the receiver, press the follow-on-call button instead.

**5**To redial the number you have just called, press the button marked "R".

6 After you have replaced the receiver, retrieve your card or collect your change. Only wholly unused coins are refunded.



Paying by credit card











#### PHONING FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

Cheap call rates within and

- · For calls within Great Britain and Northern Ireland: dial the area code and the
- · For calls to the Republic of Ireland: dial 00 353, then the area code minus the first 0,
- For international calls: dial 00, then the country code (for example, 1 for Canada, 64 for

New Zealand), then the area code minus the first 0, and finally the number you require.

In addition to using coins and pre-paid phonecards in the BT phone boxes as indicated below, credit card boxes are also available.

In 1999, all phone numbers in Northern Ireland changed from having a prefix of 01 and an area code, to having an area code of 028, followed by an 8-digit local number.

## DIRECTORY

## **USEFUL NUMBERS** REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

## **Emergency Calls**

Tel 999.

## **Directory Enquiries**

Tel 11811 (Republic and Northern

Tel 11818 (all other countries).

#### Operator Assistance

Tel 10 (Ireland and Great Britain). Tel 114 (international calls).

## **USEFUL NUMBERS NORTHERN IRELAND**

## **Emergency Calls**

Tel 999.

## **Directory Enquiries**

Tel 118118 (UK, Republic of Ireland and all other countries). Tel 153 (all other countries).

## **Operator Assistance**

Tel 100 (UK).

Tel 114 (all other countries).

#### INTERNET CAFES

## **Armagh Computer** World

43 Scotch Street, Armagh. Tel 028 3751 0002. www.computerworlds.co.uk

#### bean-there.com

20 The Diamond, Derry. Tel 028 7128 1303.

#### Central Cyber Café

6 Grafton Street, Dublin. Tel 01 677 8298

www.centralcafe.ie

### Global Internet Café

8 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin. Tel 01 878 0295.

www.centralcafe.ie

## **Planet Cyber**

13 St Andrew's Street, Dublin. Tel 01 670 5183.

## **Revelations Internet**

27 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast. Tel 028 9032 0337.

## www.revelations.co.uk

Surf City Café 207 Woodstock Road, Belfast. Tel 028 9046 1717 www.surfcitycafe.co.uk

from the Province are as for the Republic.

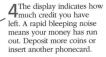
- number required.
- then the number.

## **USING A BT PHONE**

Lift the receiver and wait for the dial tone.

Dial the number and wait to be connected.

2Insert your phonecard into the slot or deposit any of the following coins: 10p, 20p, 50p, £1, £2. The minimum amount is 20p.



5 If you want to make another call and you have money left in credit, do not replace the receiver, press the follow-on-call button.

When you have finished 6 speaking, replace the receiver and retrieve your card or collect your change. Only wholly unused coins are refunded.









## PHONE BOOTHS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

000

0000

0000

Most of the phone booths in the Republic are modern. In Northern Ireland there are two different types of BT phone booths: traditional red phone booths and a newer modern style. Both are issued with the same type of telephone. In both Northern Ireland and in the Republic, the wording around the top of each booth shows whether it is a coin, phonecard or credit card phone.



Old BT phone booth



New RT phone booth

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

reland's three main airports, Dublin, Shannon and Belfast, are well served by flights from Britain,

ferry routes from ports in Britain to

both the Republic and Northern

Ireland. Instead of buying separate

the United States and an increasing number of countries around the world. If you are travelling by sea from



Aer Lingus Airbus in flight

coach/ferry and rail/ferry tickets from almost all of the towns in mainland Britain. The less-than-

tickets, you can purchase combined

comprehensive public transport systems in both the North and South reflect the rural nature of the

the UK, there is a very good choice of island. With this in mind, travelling around Ireland is probably best enjoyed if you embrace the Irish way of thinking and just take your time.



The modern exterior of Dublin International Airport

#### FLYING TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Flights from most of the major cities in Europe arrive at Dublin Airport, which is the country's busiest airport. Regular services to the Republic depart from all five of the London airports (Heathrow, City, Gatwick, Luton and Stansted) and 15 other cities in Britain, plus the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

The major airline operating scheduled flights between Britain and the Republic is Aer Lingus. However since deregulation, the rival company Ryanair has grown fast, with cheap fares from several airports in Britain and around Europe, including Barcelona, Brussels, Paris, Faro and Malaga.

Aer Lingus and Continental Airlines fly direct from the US to Dublin Airport and

Shannon Airport, ten miles outside Limerick - gone is the old ruling that all planes flying eastward to Dublin must first touch down at Shannon, but Delta Air Lines does serve both airports.

Cork Airport is served by flights from London (Heathrow and Stansted), Birmingham, Manchester, Bristol, Plymouth, Cardiff, Leeds, Glasgow, Paris, Amsterdam and Dublin, None of the airlines flies direct to Ireland from Australia or New Zealand, but there are plenty of connections via London and other capitals.

The Republic's other airports have fewer flights. There are many charter flights for pilgrims to Knock International Airport in Co Mayo, which also has flights from Dublin, London (Stansted) and Manchester. There are flights into Kerry from Dublin and Stansted airports and Waterford

Airport has flights from both London and Luton. Galway is well served with five daily flights from Dublin.

### **GETTING TO AND FROM** THE AIRPORT

The Republic's three main airports are all served by regular bus services, whereas the smaller airports depend mainly on local taxi services. Two express bus services run between Dublin Airport, the city's main rail and bus stations and the city centre every 15 to 20 minutes, from early morning to around midnight. The journey takes 30 minutes.

At Cork, the Bus Éireann service takes 15 minutes from the airport into the city. Buses run every 45 minutes on weekdays and hourly at the weekends. At Shannon Airport, Bus Éireann runs a regular service into Limerick which takes 35 minutes to the city centre. In addition, several buses a day go to the town of Ennis, about 30 km (18 miles) away. All airports in the Republic have both long- and shortstay parking facilities.



Information signs in the main concourse of Shannon Airport



One of the Airlink buses which take passengers from Dublin Airport into the city centre



Passengers checking in at Belfast International Airport

## FLYING TO NORTHERN IRELAND

There are hourly flights, operated by either British Airways or British Midland, from London Heathrow to Belfast International Airport, 30 km (18 miles) northwest of Belfast city centre. The airport is also served by flights from Luton and some regional airports like Stansted, Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow. There are also easyJet flights from Amsterdam.

Belfast City Airport is used by smaller aircraft, but is favoured by many because of its location – it is just 6.5 km (4 miles) from the city centre. The airport also has more flights from the UK – around 15 cities plus London – than Belfast International. The City of Derry Airport is Northern Ireland's smallest, with flights from Stansted, Manchester and Glasgow.

## AIRPORT CONNECTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The arrangements for getting to and from the airports in Northern Ireland are generally good. BIA's Airbus service will take you from the airport

to the Europa Buscentre via Oxford
Street Bus Station
and Central Railway
Station. This runs
every half hour and
takes about 30 minutes from end to end.

At Belfast City Airport the number 21 bus passes every half hour, taking around 10 minutes to get to the Belfast City Hall bus depot. There are trains from the airport to Central Station about every 30 minutes. Derry's airport is on a local bus route: the number 143 goes into the city centre once an hour (less frequently at weekends). All airports in Northern Ireland have taxi ranks and both long- and short-term parking facilities.

#### **AIR FARES**

Airline options between the United States and Ireland have increased in the last few years, with frequent flights now from both the East and West coasts.

It's quite easy to get a round-trip flight to Shannon from the East Coast for under US\$700 (prices are so competitive now it could cost as little as US\$200), but these tickets often restrict your visit to between 7 and 30 days. The best bargains are on flights with fixed dates.

Air fares from the US are at their highest in the peak season which runs from July to September.

Many UK airports serve Ireland and airlines offer a host of options on fares. It's not difficult to get a round-trip flight from mainland UK to Dublin for well under £100. The cheapest place to fly from is usually London,

usually London, especially Luton and Stansted airports. Prices are fairly constant all year except at Christmas, during summer and on

Airport sign in English Ch and Gaelic sur

Arrivals +

Shops Siopai

Snacks X Sólai

Bar III Bear

public holidays, when there are few discounted fares. Many airlines offer discounts to those under 25, while USIT

Many arrines offer discounts to those under 25, while USIT (see p372), Campus Travel and other specialist travel agents often have cheaper rates for students and under-26s.

## DIRECTORY

#### MAJOR AIRPORTS

Belfast City Airport Tel 028 9093 9093.

Belfast International Tel 028 9442 2888.

Cork International Tel 021 431 3131.

Dublin Airport Tel 01 814 1111.

Knock International Tel 094 936 7222.

Shannon Airport Tel 061 712000.

#### **AIRLINES**

## **Aer Lingus**

**Tel** 01 886 8844 (Ireland). **Tel** 1 800 474 7424 (US). **Tel** 0845 084 4444 (UK). **www**.aerlingus.com

## Continental Airlines Tel 01 672 7070 (Ireland).

**Tel** 01 672 7070 (Ireland). **Tel** 1 800 523 3273 (US). **www**.continental.com

### **British Airways**

Tel 1890 626747 (Ireland). Tel 0870 850 9850 (UK). Tel 1 800 403 0882 (US). www.ba.com

#### British Midland (bmi) Tel 0870 607 0555 (UK).

**Tel** 0870 607 0555 (UK). **www**.flybmi.com

#### Citviet

**Tel** 01 870 0100 (Ireland). **www**.cityjet.com

## **Delta Air Lines**

**Tel** 1800 768080 (Ireland). **Tel** 1 800 221 1212 (US). **Tel** 0800 414767 (UK). **www**.delta.com

#### easyJet

**Tel** 0870 600 0000 (UK). www.easyjet.com

#### KIM

Tel 01 663 6900 (Ireland). Tel 20 474 7747 (Netherlands). Tel 1 800 447 4747 (US). www.klmuk.com

#### **Oantas**

Tel 01 407 3278 (Ireland). Tel 02 9691 3636 (Aus). Tel 1 800 227 4500 (US). www.gantas.com.au

#### Ryanair

**Tel** 01 609 7800 (Ireland). **Tel** 0870 333 1250 (UK). **www**.ryanair.com

## Arriving by Sea

Travelling by ferry is a popular way of getting to Ireland, especially for groups or families intending to tour the country by car. Nine ports in Great Britain and two in France provide ferry crossings to Ireland's six ports. Nowadays, all ferries are of the modern drive-on/drive-off variety with lounges, restaurants and, if you're sailing to the Republic, tax-free shops. Crossing the Irish Sea is now faster than ever before, thanks to a new generation of high-speed ferries.



Stena HSS on the Dun Laoghaire to Holyhead crossing

## FERRIES TO DUBLIN AND DUN LAOGHAIRE

There is a good choice of ferry services running between Wales and Ireland. Irish Ferries, the country's largest shipping company, operates on the Holyhead-Dublin Port route and has up to six crossings a day. The high-speed service takes 1 hour 49 minutes, while the conventional ferry takes about 3¼ hours. Stena Line also operates two conventional ferry crossings each day on this route. Like most ferry companies, Irish Ferries does not operate on Christmas Day or on Boxing Day.

The service from Holyhead to the Dublin suburb of Dun Laoghaire – traditionally the busiest port in Ireland – is operated by Stena Line. This route is served by the Stena HSS (High-speed Sea Service). As the largest ferry on the Irish Sea, the HSS has the same passenger and vehicle capacity as the conventional ferries but its jet-engine propulsion gives it twice the speed.

Vehicle loading and unloading times on the fast ferries are considerably shorter than with other ferries. Passengers requiring special assistance at ports or on board the ship should contact the company they are booked with at least 24 hours before the departure time. Like most other ferry companies, Irish Ferries and Stena Line take bicycles free of charge on some routes, but mention this when booking. P&O Irish Sea, Norse Merchant Ferries and Seacat Dublin Maritime offer an eight-hour crossing from Dublin to Liverpool.

#### FERRIES TO ROSSLARE

Rosslare, in County Wexford, is the main port for crossings from South Wales to Ireland. Stena Line runs a service from Fishguard using both the conventional ferry and the speedier Sea Lynx catamaran-



Irish Ferries ship loading up at Rosslare Harbour



Logo of Irish Ferries

style ferries. Those intending to take a car on Sea Lynx should make sure the measurements of their vehicle, when fully loaded, are within those specified by Stena Line. The maximum dimensions allowable per vehicle are 3 m (10 ft) high by 6 m (20 ft) long and up to 3 tonnes.

Irish Ferries operates two crossings to Rosslare from Pembroke (4 hours) all year round. They also run a service from Roscoff in France (17 hours) between March and October. Irish Ferries and P&O run services to Rosslare from Cherbourg (18 hours). Cabins and berths are available on all crossings to Rosslare and should be booked in advance.

#### **FERRIES TO CORK**

The prospect of a 10-hour sea journey could be enough to deter some from taking the ferry to Cork, but for those heading for southwest Ireland, sailing to the small town of Ringaskiddy, near Cork, can help cut out a cross-Ireland car journey of up to 250 miles. During the high season, Swansea Cork Ferries has up to six crossings per week between the two cities but the service doesn't operate between the end of January and mid-March. The crossing takes about 10 hours.

There is also one route direct to Cork from Roscoff in France operated by Brittany Ferries. The ferry runs once a week leaving from Cork on a Saturday and from Roscoff on a Friday. The service is only available from mid-March to early November and the crossing time is 14 hours. Cabins and berths are available on routes to Cork but need to be



Directions for

ferry passengers

Gallery overlooking the quayside at Rosslare Harbour

booked well in advance in high season. There is a small charge for taking bicycles on Swansea Cork Ferries and it should be mentioned when booking.

## PORT CONNECTIONS

All Ireland's ports have adequate bus and train connections. At Dublin Port, Bus Éireann buses meet ferry arrivals and take passengers

into the city centre for a small charge. From Dun Laoghaire, DART trains run into Dublin every 10 to 15 minutes calling at

Pearse Street, Tara Street and Connolly Stations. These go from the railway station near the main passenger concourse. Buses run from Dun Laoghaire to Eden Quay and Fleet Street in the city centre every 10 to 15 minutes. At all ports, taxis are there to meet arrivals. For those interested in car hire. Hertz has a desk at Dun La at Ca

#### TRAIN AND BUS THROUGH-TICKETS

It is possible to travel from any train station in Great Britain to any specified destination in Ireland on a combined sea/rail ticket. Combined tickets can be bought from most train stations throughout Britain.

Eurolines runs a throughbus service from about 35 towns in Britain to over 100

destinations in the Republic. Ulsterbus/ Translink offers the same service to destinations in Northern Ireland. Tickets for both these bus



## DIRECTORY

#### FERRY COMPANIES

## **Brittany Ferries**

Tel 021 427 7801 (Cork). Tel 0870 536 0360 (UK).

www.brittany-ferries.com

Irish Ferries Tel 0818 300400 (ROI). Tel 0870 517 1717 (UK). www.irishferries.com

#### Isle of Man Steam Packet and SeaCat

Tel 1800 805055 (ROI). Tel 0870 552 3523 (UK). www.seacat.co.uk

#### Norse Merchant Ferries

Tel 01 819 2999 (Belfast). Tel 0870 600 4321 (UK). www.norsemerchant.com

#### P&O Irish Sea

Tel 01 407 3434 (ROI). Tel 0870 242 4777 (UK). www.poirishsea.com

#### Stena Line

Tel 01 204 7777 (Dublin). Tel 0870 400 6798 (UK). www.stenaline.co.uk

#### **Swansea Cork Ferries**

Tel 021 427 1166 (Cork). Tel 01792 456116 (UK). www.swansea-cork.ie

## **BUS COMPANIES**

## **Eurolines**

Tel 01 836 6111 (Dublin). Tel 0870 514 3219 (UK). www.eurolines.ie

#### **National Express**

Tel 0870 580 8080 (UK). www.gobycoach.com

aoghaire. Passengers arriving t Dublin Port have to rent ars from the city centre.	out Great Britain and Ireland on any five or ten days during one month.	Ulsterbus/Translink Tel 028 9066 6630 (Belfast). www.translink.co.uk
FERRY ROUTES TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	OPERATOR	LENGTH OF JOURNEY
Fishguard–Rosslare	Stena Line Stena Line	3hrs 30min (Stena Europe) 1hr 50min (Fastcraft)
Holyhead–Dublin	Irish Ferries Stena Line	1hr 49min (Jonathan Swift) 3hrs (Stena Adventurer)
Holyhead–Dun Laoghaire	Stena Line	1hr 49min (Stena HSS)
Liverpool–Dublin	Norse Merchant Ferries P&O SeaCat Dublin Maritime	8hrs 8hrs (Norbay) 3hrs 55min (Super Seacat 3)
Cherbourg–Rosslare	Irish Ferries	18hrs (Normandy)
Pembroke–Rosslare	Irish Ferries	3hrs 45min (Isle of Inishmore)
Swansea–Cork	Swansea Cork Ferries	10hrs (Superferry)

## FERRIES TO BELFAST AND LARNE

The fastest crossing to Belfast is the 90-minute SeaCat service from Stranraer in Scotland. This catamaran-style ferry sails up to four times per day, all year round. On the same route, Stena Line has introduced the second of their new HSS Stena Voyager ferries. On these the sailing time is only 15 minutes longer than that of the SeaCat.

A Liverpool to Belfast service is run by Norse Merchant Ferries, leaving Liverpool (Birkenhead) every evening and six mornings a week, and taking over 8 hours to reach Belfast. Crossing the Irish Sea with the Isle of Man Steam Packet Co lets you visit the Isle of Man en route. Leaving from both Liverpool and Hevsham, this service provides the added advantage of

allowing you to disembark at Dublin and return from Belfast or vice versa.

There are now three routes to Larne (north of Belfast): from the Scottish ports of Cairnryan (1 hour 45 minutes)

and Troon (4 hours); and from Fleetwood in Lancashire, (8 hours). The services are operated by P&O Irish Sea. who run both conventional ferries and the high-speed Superstar Express on the Larne-Cairnryan route. This service runs from mid-April to mid-September and takes only an hour. During the week in high season there are four sailings a day to Cairnryan.



Cars and lorries disembarking at Larne Port

#### PORT CONNECTIONS

Although it takes only ten minutes on foot into the city centre from Belfast Port, Flexibus shuttles are on hand to take ferry passengers into the city centre via the Europa Buscentre and Central Railway

Station. A regular bus service connects Larne Harbour to the town's bus station. and from here, buses run every hour into Belfast city centre. From Larne Port,

gers to Belfast's Yorkgate and Central train stations. Taxis are available at both ports.

Port of Belfast logo there are trains to take ferry passen-

#### **FARES AND CONCESSIONS**

Fares on ferry crossings to Ireland vary dramatically according to the season prices on certain days during the peak period of mid-June to mid-September can be double those at other times of the year. Prices increase greatly during the Christmas and New Year period, too. It is advisable to book your journey both ways before setting out. Those travelling to ports without a reservation should always check availability before setting out.

Often, the cheapest way for families or groups of adults to travel is to buy a ticket that allows you to take a car plus a maximum number of passengers. At certain times of the year on particular routes, the return ticket for a car and five adults (two children count as one adult) can cost less than 65 euros. The cheapest crossings are usually those where the passenger must depart and return within a specified period. Fares are normally reduced for mid-week travel and early-morning or latenight crossings. Ferry companies offer discounts for students bearing an ISIC card (see p372) and some have cut-price deals for those with InterRail tickets (see p391).

FERRY ROUTES TO NORTHERN IRELAND	OPERATOR	LENGTH OF JOURNEY
Cairnryan–Larne	P&O P&O P&O	1hr 45min (European Causeway) 1hr (Superstar Express) 1hr 45min (European Highlander)
Fleetwood–Larne	Stena Line	8hrs (Stena Pioneer) 8hrs (Stena Leader)
Heysham-Belfast	SeaCat Scotland	4hrs (Seacat Rapide)
Liverpool-Belfast	Norse Merchant Ferries	9hrs
Stranraer–Belfast	Stena Line	1hr 45 (Stena HSS) 3hrs 15min (Stena Caledonia)
	SeaCat Scotland	1hr 30min (HSS Stena Voyager)
Troon-Belfast	SeaCat Scotland	2hrs 30min
Troon–Larne	P&O	1hr 50 min (Superstar Express)

## On the Road

One of the best ways to see Ireland's magnificent scenery and ancient sites is by car. Driving on the narrow, twisting country roads can be a pleasure; often you don't see another vehicle for miles. It can also be frustrating, especially if you find yourself stuck behind a slow-moving tractor or a herd of cows. If you don't want to take your own vehicle, car rental in Ireland is no problem. All the international car rental firms operate in the Republic and are also well represented in the North. Touring by bicycle is another enjoyable way of seeing the best parts of the island at your own leisurely pace.

#### TAKING YOUR OWN CAR

If you intend to take your own car across on the ferry (see pp384-6) check your car insurance to find out how well you are covered. To prevent a fully comprehensive policy being downgraded to third-party coverage, ask your insurance company for a Green Card. Carry your insurance certificate, Green Card, proof of ownership of the car and, importantly, your driver's licence. If your licence was issued in Great Britain, you should also bring your passport with you for ID.

Membership of a reputable automobile club like the AA, RAC or Green Flag National Breakdown is advisable unless you are undaunted by the prospect of breaking down in remote parts. Non-members can join up for just the duration of their trip. Depending on the type of coverage, automobile clubs may offer only limited services in Ireland.

#### **RENTING A CAR**

Car rental firms do good business in Ireland, so in summer it's wise to book ahead. Rental – particularly in the Republic – is quite expensive and the best rates are often obtained by renting in advance. Broker companies, such as Holiday Autos, will shop around to get you the best deal. Savings can also be made by choosing a fly-drive or even a rail-sail-drive vacation, but always check for hidden extras.

Car rental usually includes unlimited mileage plus passenger indemnity



One for the road

insurance and coverage for third party, fire and theft, but not damage to the vehicle. If you plan to cross the border in either direction, however briefly, you must tell the rental company, as there may be a small insurance premium.

To rent a car, you must show a full driver's licence, held for two years without violation. US visitors are advised to obtain an international licence through AAA before leaving the States to facilitate dealing with traffic officials should problems occur.



Gaelic road sign instructing motorists to yield or give way

#### **BUYING FUEL**

Unleaded petrol (gas) and diesel fuel are available just about everywhere in Ireland. Although prices vary from station to station, fuel in the Republic is quite expensive; in Northern Ireland it costs even more. Almost all the stations accept VISA and MasterCard, although it is worth checking before filling up, particularly in rural areas.

#### **ROAD MAPS**

The road map on the inside back cover shows virtually all the towns and villages mentioned in this guide. In addition, each chapter starts with a map of the region showing all the major sights and tips on getting around. However, if you plan to do much driving or cycling, you should equip yourself with a more detailed map. Ordnance Survey Holiday Maps are among the best road maps. You can usually get town plans free from tourist offices (see p370). The tourist boards of the Republic and Northern Ireland both issue free lists of suggested routes for cyclists.



A busy Hertz car rental desk at Dublin Airport



The familiar sight of a farmer and cattle on an Irish country road

#### RULES OF THE ROAD

Even for those unused to driving on the left, driving in Ireland is unlikely to pose any great problems. For many, the most difficult aspect of it is getting used to overtaking on the right and giving way to traffic on the right at roundabouts (traffic circles). On both sides of the border. the wearing of seat belts is compulsory for drivers and all passengers. Rear seat belts must also be worn. Children must have a suitable restraint system. Motorcyclists and passengers must wear helmets. Northern Ireland uses the same Highway Code as Great Britain. The Republic of Ireland's Highway Code is very similar - copies of both are available from bookstores.



Speed limit signs in mph on a country road in County Cork

In Northern Ireland, you will notice some cars carrying a red "R" plate. These identify "restricted" drivers who have passed their driving test within the previous 12 months and have to keep to lower speeds.

#### SPEED LIMITS

In the Republic and Northern Ireland the maximum speed limits, which are shown in miles per hour, are much the same as those in Britain:

- 30 mph (50 km/h) in builtup areas.
- 60 mph (100 km/h) outside built-up areas.
- 70 mph (110 km/h) on motorways.

On certain roads, which are clearly marked, the speed limits are either 40 mph (65 km/h) or 50 mph (80 km/h). Where there is no indication, the speed limit is 60 mph (95 km/h). In the Republic, vehicles towing caravans (trailers) must not exceed 55 mph (90 km/h). Speed limits are strictly enforced in both the North and the Republic.

## **ROAD SIGNS**

Most road signs in the Republic are in both Gaelic and English. Ireland is striving toward metrication so all the new-style green and white signs are in kilometres. However, nothing's quite that simple in Ireland, so expect to come across some black-on-white signs showing distances in miles. As in Britain, road signs in the North are always

in miles. One road sign that is unique to the Republic is the "Yield" sign – in the UK this is worded "Give Way". Throughout both the Republic and Northern Ireland, brown signs with white lettering indicate places of historic, cultural or leisure interest.

## SIGNS IN THE REPUBLIC





Unprotected quay or river ahead

Junction ahead





Children or

Dangerous bends ahead

#### SIGNS IN NORTHERN IRELAND



Motorway direction sign



Primary route sign

### **ROAD CONDITIONS**

Northern Ireland's roads are well surfaced and generally in better condition than those in the Republic, though there are just as many winding stretches requiring extra caution. The volume of traffic, particularly in the South, is much lower than in Britain. On some of the more rural roads you may not come across another driver for miles. Even the major roads can be surprisingly quiet. There are only a few sections of motorway in the whole of Ireland, though recent years have seen extensive construction of two-lane highways in the Republic, including rural areas such as County Donegal.

#### PARKING

Finding parking in Ireland used to be easy, but this has changed in recent years. Due

changed in recent years. Do to increased congestion, the majority of towns now have paid parking on and off street. Dublin, Belfast and a few other cities have either parking meters or (fairly expensive) parking lots. Parking on

the street is allowed, though a single yellow line along the edge of the road means there are some restrictions (there should be a sign nearby showing the permitted parking times). Double yellow lines indicate that no parking

is allowed at any time.

Disc parking – a version of "pay & display" – operates in

most large towns and cities in the Republic Control and the North. Discs Zone can be purchased from fuel stations, tourist offi-NO VEHICLE TO BE LEFT ces and many small UNATTENDED shops. In Northern Ireland, almost all towns at any time and villages have Control Zones. Warning sign in which are indicated Northern Ireland by large yellow or pink signs. For security reasons, unattended parking in a Control Zone is not permitted at any time of the day.

## CYCLING

The quiet roads of Ireland help to make touring by bicycle a real joy. The **Raleigh**  Rent-a-Bike network of bike dealers operates a reasonably priced rental scheme throughout Ireland. Also local shops, such as **Cycle Ways** in Dublin,

> rent bikes to tourists and are open at least six days a week. You can often rent a bike in

often rent a bike in one town and drop it off at another for a small charge. Many dealers can also provide safety helmets, but

bring your own lightweight waterproof clothing to help cope with the unpredictable weather. Buses and trains will carry bikes for a surcharge.

Parking

disc sign

## SECURITY ROADBLOCKS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

In the late 1960s, when the Northern Ireland troubles

began, roadblocks were introduced on to the roads of the province. These days if you are travelling by road, whether in the centre of Londonderry or the remote Sperrin Mountains, you are very unlikely to come across a roadblock,

depending on the political climate at the time. Checkpoints can be staffed by either the army or the police, who will ask for proof of identity. In the unlikely event of your being stopped, show your driver's licence and insurance certificate or rental agreement when asked.



Cyclists checking their directions in Ballyvaughan, County Clare

## DIRECTORY

## CAR-RENTAL COMPANIES

## Alamo

**Tel** 0870 599 4000 (UK). **Tel** 1 800 462 5266 (US)

Argus Rent-a-Car

*Tel* 01 490 6173 (Dublin). www.argusrentals.com

#### Avis

**Tel** 021 428 1111 (Dublin). **Tel** 0870 60 60 100 (UK). **Tel** 1 800 230 4898 (US). **www.**avis.com

#### Budaet

**Tel** 01 844 5919 (Dublin). **Tel** 1 800 793159 (US). **www.**budget.ie

## **Dan Dooley**

Tel 01 677 2723 (Dublin). www.dan-dooley.ie

#### Hertz

**Tel** 01 844 5466 (Dublin). **Tel** 0870 844 8844 (UK). **Tel** 800 654 3001 (US).

#### **Holiday Autos**

**Tel** 0870 400 0000 (UK). www.holidayautos.co.uk

#### Irish Car Rentals

**Tel** 061 453049 (Limerick). **Tel** 0800 4747 4227 (UK). **www.**irishcarrentals.com

## Murrays/Europcar

**Tel** 01 614 8000 (Dublin). **www**.europcar.ie

## National Car Rental

Tel 021 431 8623 (Cork).

## **BREAKDOWN SERVICES**

#### **Automobile Association**

**Tel** 01 617 9977 (ROI). **Tel** Rescue No. 1800 667788. **www**.aaireland.ie

## Royal Automobile Club

**Tel** 01 412 5500 (ROI). **Tel** Rescue No. 1800 535005.

## Green Flag National Breakdown

Tel 0800 000111 (to enrol in UK).

#### **BICYCLE-RENTAL SHOPS**

## Cycle Ways

Tel 01 873 4748 (Dublin).

Raleigh Rent-a-Bike Tel 01 456 5280 (Dublin).

## **Belfield Bike Shop**

Tel 01 706 1697 (Dublin).

## Travelling by Train

The Republic of Ireland's rail network is run by **Irish Rail** (Iarnród Éireann) and is state-controlled. The rail network is far from comprehensive and quite expensive, but the trains are generally reliable and comfortable and can be a good way of covering long distances. The service provided by **Northern Ireland Railways** (NIR) is more limited but fares are slightly cheaper. There is an excellent train service between Dublin and Belfast, with a journey time of just under two hours. Fares can be as little as 43 euros round trip.

## TRAIN SERVICES IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Although the more rural areas in the Republic of Ireland are not served by train, Irish Rail operates a satisfactory service to most of the large cities and towns. Taking the train is probably the fastest and most convenient way of going from Dublin to places like Cork, Waterford, Limerick and Galway. However, there are glaring gaps in the network; for example, Donegal is totally devoid of train services, so if you are planning to explore the west

coast of Ireland using public transport, you will have to continue westward from towns such as Galway, Sligo, Limerick and Westport using the local bus services.

The two main train stations in Dublin are Connolly Station, for trains to the north, northwest and Rosslare, and Heuston Station, which serves the west, midlands and southwest. These two stations are connected by the No. 90 bus service which runs every 10 to 15 minutes and takes a quarter of an hour – traffic permitting. All trains in the Republic of Ireland have





southwest rail network

standard and super-standard (first-class) compartments.

Bicycles can be taken on intercity trains but there is a fee of up to 10 euros.

## OUTER DUBLIN RAIL SERVICES

The handy electric rail service known as DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) serves 30 stations between Malahide and Greystones with several stops in Dublin city centre. A Rail/Bus ticket allows three consecutive days' travel on DART trains as well as Dublin Bus services. Tickets can be purchased at any of the DART stations. The Luas light rail service connects central Dublin with the suburbs. The first lines were completed in 2004, and will eventually interconnect with the DART.

## TRAIN SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Other than an express service out to Larne Harbour and a commuter line to Bangor, there are only two main routes out of Belfast: a line westward to Londonderry via Coleraine (for the Giant's Causeway) and Ireland's only cross-border service, operating a high-speed link between Belfast and Dublin eight times a day. All trains leave from Central Station. Great Victoria Street station opened in 1995 and brings rail travellers right to the heart of the city's business and shopping district. Bear in mind that there are no baggage rooms at any of Northern Ireland's train or bus stations.

#### TICKETS AND FARES

Throughout Ireland, train tickets are generally quite expensive, but there are lots of bargain incentives and concessionary passes. Most of these include bus travel, so you can get virtually anywhere in Ireland on one ticket.

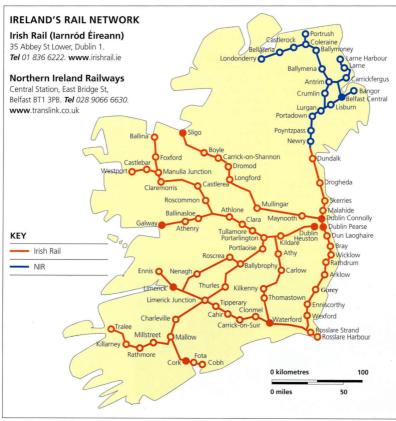
The most comprehensive ticket available is the Emerald Card, which can be used on all Irish Rail, Northern Ireland Railways, and Ulsterbus services. For around 200 euros the Emerald Card gives eight days' unlimited travel in a 15-day period. An 8-day Irish Explorer ticket, which costs about 150 euros, is valid on all Irish Rail and Bus Éireann services throughout the Republic; travel in Northern Ireland is not included. Both passes cover many local services, including transport in the cities of Cork, Waterford and Galway.



The modern ticket office at Belfast's Central Station

### CONCESSIONS

Students can buy a Travelsave Stamp (see p372) to affix to their student travel cards for discounts on train fares. For those under 26, Faircards give discounts on all Irish Rail single journeys, and can be bought from USIT (see p372). Under-26 InterRail passes allow unlimited rail travel for 15 days or one month in the Republic and 25 other European countries. Older travellers can get InterRail Plus 26 cards costing slightly more. However, InterRail cards allow only a one-third discount on Northern Ireland Railways.



## Travelling by Bus and Taxi

The bus services throughout Ireland are quite good, for such a rural island. However, longer journeys often involve changing buses en route so extra travelling time should be allowed for. Touring by bus is also a good way to see Ireland – local tourist offices have details of tours as well as prices and often take bookings. Taxi services are available in all major cities and towns in Ireland. In the Republic, taxis can be four or eight-seater cars and are identified by a yellow light on the

roof. In the North, cities like Belfast and Londonderry have both mini-cabs and Londonstyle black cabs.

Logo on Bus Éireann local and express buses

#### **GETTING AROUND BY BUS**

The Republic of Ireland's national bus company, Bus Éireann, operates a countrywide network of buses serving all the cities and most of the towns. In Dublin, the main bus station is the Busáras on Store Street, a short walk from O'Connell Street. There are a number of private bus companies which either compete with the national network or provide services on routes not covered by Bus Éireann. In rural Donegal, for example, there are several private bus services. Some are not fully licensed, so check whether you would be covered in the event of an accident. Local tourist offices should be able to point out the most reputable firms.

**Ulsterbus** runs an excellent service throughout Northern Ireland including express links between all the major towns. Belfast has two main bus stations – the Europa Buscentre off Great Victoria Street and Laganside Station. Check before setting out that you are going to the right one. Note that for reasons of security, there are no baggage rooms at any of the stations in Northern Ireland.

#### FARES AND TICKETS

In the Republic, long-distance buses are about half the price of the equivalent train trip. If you are making the return trip on the same day, ask for a day-return ticket, which is much cheaper than the normal round-trip fare. Also, between Monday and Thursday you can buy a "period" return ticket for the price of a oneway fare. Under 16s pay half the adult fare. Students with a Travelsave stamp (see p372) get a 30 per cent reduction. For those intending to do a lot of travelling it is cheaper to buy



Express service bus in Northern Ireland



Boarding a bus at the Europa Buscentre in Belfast

a "Rambler" ticket. This allows unlimited bus travel throughout the Republic for a certain number of days in a set period, for example, 15 days' travel out of 30 consecutive days.

A "Freedom of Northern Ireland" ticket gives you unlimited travel on all Ulsterbus routes for either a day or a week. Ulsterbus also offers cheap day-return tickets. Students can get a 15 per cent discount by showing their ISIC card. There are also a number of period passes available that combine bus and rail travel (see p391).

### **BUS TOURS**

While the bus services in Ireland are generally adequate for getting from town to town, using public transport isn't a very practical way of exploring specific areas or regions in great detail, unless you have a lot of time on your hands. If you find yourself in a remote area like Connemara (see pp206-8) but have only a very limited amount of time in which to see its main attractions, a local guided tour of the area is a good idea. For about 25 euros per adult you can do the picturesque "figure of eight" circuit by bus, starting from Galway and taking in Spiddal, Kylemore, Letterfrack, Oughterard and then returning to Galway. The bus sets out at 10am and returns at about 5:30pm, making regular stops at places of interest. The price does not include admission fees or

lunch. Bookings are made at Galway Tourist Information Centre and can be arranged in advance or on the day. Fourhour or one-day tours such as this are available in many of Ireland's main tourist areas. Other popular tours of rural Ireland include Glendalough (see pp140-41), Donegal (see pp224-31), and the Ring of Kerry (see pp164-5). In Dublin and other cities in the Republic, Bus Éireann and some local companies run half- and one-day excursions. Dublin Bus (Bus Átha Cliath) runs a Dublin City tour, which leaves from O'Connell Street Upper. This guided tour takes in the city's most famous sights.

In Northern Ireland, Ulsterbus operates tours from the Europa Buscentre in Belfast to all the major places of interest. These tours include the Causeway Coast, the Glens of Antrim and the Ulster-American Folk Park near Omagh. Ulsterbus prefers bookings to be made in person at their Belfast office. In summer, Belfast Citybus operates up to two guided bus tours per day around the city; in winter there are tours on Thursday and Saturday.

#### LOCAL TRANSPORT

Local bus services throughout the Republic are generally well-run and reasonably priced. **Dublin Bus** runs the bus services in the Greater Dublin area. Buses in the city centre run from about 6am until 11:30pm with an



Taxis lined up outside the arrivals building at Dublin Airport



Passengers alighting from a Waterford city bus

extended "nitelink" service at weekends. One-day passes, costing 5 euros, are good value. The new on-street light rail service, Luas, provides an easy way to reach suburban areas previously only accessible by bus. The Luas lines connect with the DART rail service (see p390) at Connolly Station and eventually with a proposed Metro system. In the rest of the Republic the bus services, including city buses in Galway, Limerick, Waterford and Cork, are operated mainly by Bus Éireann; a timetable is available at tourist offices and bus stations. Some bus routes connecting towns and villages are served by private companies as well as Bus Éireann. For bus times (and stops) in more remote areas, try asking the locals.

Except for Belfast, Northern Ireland's bus network is run by Ulsterbus/Translink. In the province's capital the local service is operated by Citybus. A wide variety of travel passes are available for Citybus and Ulsterbus/Translink lines. Regional timetables are available at bus stations.

## TAXIS IN THE REPUBLIC

Except in the most rural of places, there is usually a local taxi service – your hotel or B&B will provide details. In Dublin, taxis range from fourseater cars to minivans. Cruising taxis are a rarity: the best places to find taxis are at train or bus stations, hotels and taxi ranks. Prices are usually based on metered mileage; if not, always ask the fare to your destination.

## TAXIS IN NORTHERN

Taxis in Northern Ireland are reasonably priced. Journeys within the centre of Belfast usually cost no more than £5 by mini-cab or black cab. In most decent-sized towns in the North you will find at least one taxi office or rank where you can wait for a cab. Otherwise, ask for the number of a taxi firm at a local hotel or B&B.

## DIRECTORY

## CITY TRANSPORT

Citybus (Belfast) Tel 028 9045 8484.

DART (Dublin)

Tel 01 836 6222. www.irishrail.ie

**Dublin Bus Tel** 01 873 4222.

www.dublinbus.ie

Luas (Dublin)
Tel 1 800 300604. www.luas.ie

### NATIONAL BUS COMPANIES

Bus Éireann Tel 01 836 6111. www.buseireann.ie

Ulsterbus/Translink Tel 028 9066 6630.

# www.translink.co.uk BUS TOURS

## Irish City Tours and Gray Line

Dublin Tourist Office, Dublin 2. *Tel* 01 605 7705.

#### McGeehan Coaches

Fintown PO, Co Donegal. **Tel** 074 954 6101.

## General Index

Page numbers in bold type refer to main entries

A-Wear (Cork) 355 A.B. O'Connor Bookshop (Kenmare) 355 Abbey Theatre (Dublin) 88, 112 Dublin's Best: Entertainment history 44 Literary Ireland 22, 23 Street-by-Street map 87 Abbeyfeale

hotels 306 Abbeyleix pubs 350 Abbeys

> Assaroe Abbey (Ballyshannon) 231 Athassel Priory 198 Augustinian Priory (Adare)

Black Abbey (Kilkenny) 144 Bonamargy Friary 266 Boyle Abbey 219 Cahir Abbey 198

Clare Abbey (Ennis) 189 Cong Abbey 209 Donegal Abbey 230 Duiske Abbey 149 Dunbrody Abbey 148 Ennis Friary 189

Fore Abbey 241 Grey Abbey 280 Holy Cross Abbey 195 Hore Abbey 195 Inch Abbey 281 Jerpoint Abbey 145

Kylemore Abbey **208** Mellifont Abbey 35, **245** Moore Abbey (Monasterevin)

Muckross Abbey 162 Portumna Priory 213 Quin Franciscan Friary 189 Red Abbey (Cork) 176 Rock of Cashel 196-7

St Mary's Abbey (Dublin) 93 Selskar Abbey 150 Sligo Abbey 234 Timoleague Abbey 170-1

Tintern Abbey 148 see also Monasteries Achill Archaeological Summer

School 361 Achill Island 204 hotels 309

restaurants 337 Act of Union (1800) 42 Adair, John 224 Adams, Gerry 47 ADAPT 373

Adare 15, 194 hotels 292, 306-307 restaurants 335

Adare Manor 292 Admission charges 370 Aer Lingus 383 Agricola 33

Ahenny 199 High Cross 243 Aherlow, Glen of 198 Aille Cross Equestrian Centre (Loughrea) 367 Aillwee Cave 188

Air travel 382-3 Airports Belfast City 383

Belfast International 383 Cork 382, 383

Dublin 382, 383 Knock International 382, 383

Shannon 382, 383 Aird's Snout 262

Alamo 389 Albert Memorial Clock Tower

(Belfast) 279 Alcock and Brown Memorial 207

All-Ireland Football Final 29, 50 All-Ireland Hurling Final (Croke Park) 29, 50 Allen, Lough 185

Allihies 166 Allingham, William 231 Allow, River 177

Altamont, Earls of 205 Altamont, John Browne, 1st Earl

of 205 Ambulances 375 American Express 379

An Óige 291 An Óige Hill Walkers Club 366 An Taisce (Irish National Trust)

Anderson, John 177 Andrew's Lane Theatre (Dublin)

Anglo-Irish Agreement (1986) 47 Anglo-Irish families 125 The Pale 132

Anglo-Irish literature 22 Anglo-Irish Treaty (1921) 44 Anglo-Normans 36-7

Dublin Castle 76 invasion of Ireland 31, 125 Southeast Ireland 125

Animals see Wildlife; Zoos Annacotty

pubs 348 Annagry restaurants 339

Annalong hotels 316

The Annals of the Four Masters 39 Annestown

hotels 299 Antique Prints (Dublin) 107 Antiques Fairs 107

Antiques shops, Dublin 106, 107 Antrim, County 255

coastline map 261 map 256-7 see also Northern Ireland

Apartment rentals 290 Apollo Gallery (Dublin) 107 Aquariums

Exploris (Portaferry) 280 Aran Islands 201, 214-15 hotels 309

pubs 349 Aranmore 228 Áras an Uachtaráin, Phoenix

Park (Dublin) 96 Archaeological holidays 361 Architecture 20-1

Dublin's Georgian terraces 69 Georgian Ireland 40-1

Ardagh 241 Ardara 228 hotels 312

Ardboe Cross 268 Ardclinis Activity Centre

(Cushendall) 366 Ardess Craft Centre (Kesh) 361 Ardfert Cathedral 156

Ardfinnan hotels 307 Ardglass 284 pubs 351

restaurants 342 Ardgroom 166

Ardilaun, Lord 60 Ardmore 145 round tower 21 Ards Peninsula 255, 280

Argus Rent-a-Car 389 Armada, French (1796) French Armada Centre (Bantry House) 168

Armada, Spanish (1588) Duncannon 148 history 38 treasure 257, 278

Ulster Museum 278 Armagh 255, 274 hotels 316

restaurants 342 Armagh, County 255 see also Northern Ireland

Armagh Computer World (Armagh) 381 Arnott's (Dublin) 107 Arrow, Lough 235

Arsenius, Mother 205 Arthurstown hotels 299

Asgard (ship) 97 Ashford hotels 299

Ashford Castle 209, 292 Ashtown Castle, Phoenix Park (Dublin) 96

Askeaton 184 Assaroe Abbey 231 Association of Irish Riding Establishments 367

Athassel Priory 198 Athlone 185, 249 hotels 314

restaurants 341 Athlone Castle 249 Athlone Cruisers 367

hotels 299 Atlantic Coast Drive (Achill Island) 204

Atlantic Sea Kayaking 367 Aughnanure Castle 209

Aughrim hotels 299

Augustinian order 150, 189 Automobile Association 389 Autumn in Ireland 50 Avis 389

Avoca Handweavers (Bray) 139, Avondale Forest Park 141

Belfast (cont.) Avondale House 141 Baltimore Diving and political murals of West Watersports Centre 367 Avonmore, River 141 Belfast 278 Bamboo Park 167 pubs 351 Bandon railway station 390 hotels 302 Bacon, Francis 91 restaurants 343 Bagenalstown restaurants 331 Visitors' Checklist 277 Bangor 280 hotel 299 Belfast Castle 279 Baggage rooms 375 hotels 317 Belfast Cathedral 276-77 Baily Lighthouse 102 pubs 351 Belfast City Airport 383 restaurants 343 Balgriffin (Dublin) Bangor, Lord and Lady 284 Belfast Civic Festival and Lord hotels 298 Bank holidays 51 Mayor's Show 48 **Ballina** Bank of Ireland (Dublin) 60 Belfast Festival at Queen's hotels 309 50, 361 Street-by-Street map 58 restaurants 337 Bank of Ireland Arts Centre Belfast International Airport 383 Ballinafad 235 Ballinasloe Fair 50 (Dublin) 112 Belfast Music Festival 51 Banknotes 376-7 Belfield Bike Shop (Dublin) 389 Ballincollig 171 Bellaghy 39 Banks 378-9 Ballinderry hotels 307 Banna Strand 156 Belleek 269 restaurants 335 Bannow Bay 148 Lower Lough Erne tour 270 Banquets 360 Belleek Pottery 269 Ballingarry Belloto, Bernardo 132 restaurants 335 Bunratty Castle 192-3 Belltable Arts Centre (Limerick) Ballingeary 171 Knappogue Castle 189 Ballintemple Fishery (Ardattin) Bansha 198 hotels 307 Belmore, 1st Earl of 272 366 Belturbet Banshees 26 Ballintoy 261 hotels 314 Ballon Bantry 167 Belvedere, 1st Earl of 249 hotels 292, 302 hotels 299 restaurants 331 Belvedere College (Dublin) 90 Ballsbridge (Dublin) hotels 297 Bantry, Richard White, 1st Earl Belvedere House (Mullingar) 249 restaurants 328 of 168 Ben Bulben Ballycastle (Co Antrim) 266-7 Bantry, 2nd Earl of 168, 169 Bantry Bay 167 Yeats Country tour 232 Benedictine order festivals 48, 49 Fore Abbey 241 hotels 317 Bantry House 168-9, 292 Holy Cross Abbey 195 Barley Cove 153, 167 restaurants 343 Kylemore Abbey 208 Barna Ballycastle (Co Mayo) restaurants 337 restaurants 337 St Mary's Abbey (Dublin) 93 Bennettsbridge 144 Ballyconneely 207 Barralet, James 101 Benone Strand 260 hotels 309 Barrow, River 148 Ballyconnell Bars, Dublin 110, 112-13 Bere Island 167 Battle of the Boyne Day 49, 51 Bernard, St 245 hotels 314 Ballycopeland Windmill 280 Beach Scene (Degas) 91 Bernini, Gian Lorenzo 135 Ballycotton Beaghmore Stone Circles 268 Bettystown restaurants 341 restaurants 331 Beaker people 32 Bianconi, Charles 42, 199 bean-there.com 381 Ballydehob 167 restaurants 331 Beara Peninsula 166 Bicycles 363 Ballyferriter Beaufield Mews (Dublin) 107 cycling holidays 366 Beaumont Hospital 375 on trains 389 Dingle Peninsula tour 158 Ballygally 267 Becket, Thomas à 150 renting 389 Beckett, Samuel 22, 23, 62 Big Brother Records (Dublin) 107 hotels 317 Ballyhack 148 Nobel Prize 46 Birdhill Ballyhack Castle 148 Portora Royal School 272 restaurants 335 Ballymacarberry Trinity College (Dublin) 62 Birds hotels 299 Bed-and-breakfast The Burren 186 Castle Caldwell Forest Park restaurants 328 accommodation 290 Ballymaloe School of Cookery Bedell, Bishop 83 Beehive huts 21 Connemara 208 (Midleton) 361 Dalkey Island 103 Ballymena Beer hotels 317 The Brewing of Guinness 98-9 River Shannon 185 Ballymore Eustace duty-free allowances 372 Saltee Islands 151 Guinness Storehouse (Dublin) Skellig Michael 165 restaurants 329 Ballyshannon 231 Wexford Wildfowl Reserve 98 restaurants 339 Begging 374 150 Ballyshannon International Folk Behan, Brendan 23, 115 Birr 253 Festival 49 Beit, Sir Alfred 132, 133 hotels 314 Ballyvaughan 188 Beit Art Collection restaurants 341 hotels 307 (Russborough House) 132 Birr Castle 48, 253 Belfast 255, 276-9 pubs 348 Bishop's Quarter 188 restaurants 335 buses 392 Black, Mary 17, 24 Baltimore 170 ferries 386 Black and Tans 44, 153

hotels 317

map 276-7

personal safety 374

Black Castle 195

Black Death 37

Black Head 188

hotels 302

restaurants 331

pubs 347

Blacklion	Boyne Valley 237, <b>244–5</b> , 248	Burtonport
restaurants 341	Bray 127, <b>133</b>	pubs 350
Blackrock Castle 177	Brazen Head (Dublin pub) 112	Bus Éreann 393
Blackwater, River 145, 177	Brecan, St 214	Buses 392–3
Blanket bog 19, 252	Brendan the Navigator, St 27	airport 383
Blarney	Ardfert Cathedral 156	through-tickets 385
restaurants 332 Blarney Castle <b>171</b>	Clonfert Cathedral 213 replica boat 190	Bushmills
Blarney House 171	voyages 213	Old Bushmills Distillery <b>266</b> pubs 351
Blarney Stone 154, 171	Breweries see Beer	restaurants 344
Blarney Woollen Mills (Blarney)	Brian Ború, king of Munster 34,	What to Buy in Ireland 357
171, 355	35, 195	Butler family (Earls of
Blasket Centre	defeats Vikings 79	Ormonde) 125, 181
Dingle Peninsula tour 158	grave 274	Cahir Castle 198
Blennerville Windmill 156, 157 Blessing of the Sea 49	Killaloe 190 Brian de Staic (Killarney) 355	Clonmel 199 Kilkenny 142
Blessington 133	Bricín (Killarney) 355	Kilkenny Castle 123, 144
restaurants 329	Bricklieve Mountains 221	Ormond Castle 199
Bloody Foreland 221, 224	Brigid, St 128	Swiss Cottage (Cahir) 198-9
Bloody Sunday (1972) 46	Brigit's Garden 209	tombs 144
Bloom, Leopold and Molly 90	Bristol, Frederick Augustus	Butler's Chocolate Café (Dublin)
Bloomsday (Dublin) 48 Blues 109, 112	Hervey, Earl of 260 British Airways 383	107 Butter Exchange Shandon Craft
Boa Island	British Horse Society 367	Centre (Cork) 174
Lower Lough Erne tour 270	British Midland (bmi) 383	Butterstream Gardens (Trim) 248
Boats	Brittany Ferries 385	Butter Exchange Museum 174
cruising and sailing 365, 367	Brittas Bay	<b>C</b>
currachs 214 ferries 384–6	pubs 346	Colort 8 Co (Dublic) 107
Galway hookers <b>211</b> , 212	Broighter gold boat <b>33</b> , 66 Bronco's Web Internet Café	Cabot & Co (Dublin) 107 Cadamstown 253
Bodbrán (drum) 24, 352–3, 356	(Belfast) 381	Café en Seine (Dublin bar) 112
Bog of Allen Nature Centre	Bronze Age 32–3, 66	Caha Mountains 166
128, 252	Brooke, Sir Basil 230	Cahalan Jewellers (Ballinasloe)
Bogs	Broughshane	355
The Raised Bogs of the	pubs 351	Caherciveen
Midlands <b>252</b> Peatland World <b>128</b>	Brown, Capability 245 Brown Thomas (Dublin) 107	Ring of Kerry tour 164 Caherdaniel
Peatlands Park 274, 275	Street-by-Street map 58	hotels 302
Shannonbridge Bog Railway	Browne family 205	Cahermore Stone Fort 188
251	Browne's Hill Dolmen 141	Cahir <b>198–9</b>
Bonamargy Friary 266	Brú Ború see Brian Ború	restaurants 335
Bonet (gardener) 133 Bono 24	Brú Ború Heritage Centre (Cashel) 195	Cahir Abbey 198 Cahir Castle 198
Book of Durrow 34, 55, 63	Bruce, Edward 36, 275	Cahir Castle 198 Cahirciveen
Book of Kells <b>64</b> , 241	Bruce, Robert, King of Scotland	pubs 347
Book shops 352, 355	266	Callan
Dublin <b>106</b> , 107	Bruce's Cave (Rathlin Island) 266	hotels 299
What to Buy in Ireland 357	Bryce, Annan 166	Campile 330
Books Upstairs (Dublin) 107 The Boom Boom Room (Dublin	Budget (car hire) 389 Buite, St 242	restaurants 329 Camping 290–1
nightclub) 113	Bull Point 266	Canals
Boomtown Rats 24	Bunbeg 224	Dublin 101
Booterstown (Dublin)	Buncrana	Waterways Visitors' Centre
hotels 297	Inishowen Peninsula tour 226	(Dublin) 101
Borderline Records (Dublin) 107	Bundoran	Canova, Antonio, <i>The Three</i> Graces 177
Borrisokane hotels 307	hotels 312–13 Bunglass Point 229	Cape Clear Island 170
Bosco, Don 206	Bunnow, River 195	Cappoquin
Botanic Gardens (Belfast) 278	Bunratty	hotels 299
Boucicault, Dion 88	hotels 307	Caragh Lake
Bourchier's Castle 195	pubs 348	hotels 302–303
Boycott, Captain 42 Boyle <b>219</b>	restaurants 335 Bunratty Castle and Folk Park	Caravaggio, <i>The Taking of Christ</i> 71
hotels 309	181, <b>192–3</b>	Caravans 290–1
Boyle Abbey 219	Bureaux de change 379	horse-drawn 291
Boyle Arts Festival 361	Burges, William 175	Carlingford 237, 242
Boyle family monument 82–3	Burgh, William de 198	hotels 314
Boyne, Battle of the (1690) 31, 237, <b>244</b>	Burke, Éamonn 37 Burke, Edmund 62	pubs 350 restaurants 341
Battle of the Boyne Day 49	statue of 62	Carlow
history 38–9	Burne-Jones, Sir Edward 145	hotels 299
Talbot family 102	The Burren 186–8	pubs 346
tapestry 38	map 188	restaurants 329

Carlow, County 125 see also Southeast Ireland Carndonagh Cross Inishowen Peninsula tour 226 Carne restaurants 329 Carnlough 267 hotels 318 Carrick 229 Carrick-a-rede rope bridge 255, 261 Carrick-on-Shannon 185, 235 hotels 310 restaurants 339 Carrick-on-Suir 199 Carrickfergus 275 Carrickfergus Castle 36-7, 275 festivals 49 Carrickmacross restaurants 341 Carrigafoyle Castle 156 Carrigglas Manor 240-1 Carrignacurra Castle 171 Carroll's Irish Gift Stores (Dublin) 107 Carron restaurants 335 Carrowkeel Passage Tomb Cemetery 223, 235 Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery 234 Cars 387-9 breakdown and recovery services 389 buying petrol 387 insurance 387 parking 389 renting 387, 389 road conditions 388 road maps 387 road signs 388 rules of the road 388 security roadblocks 389 speed limits 388 taking your own car 387 see also Tours by car Carson, Edward (Lord Carson) 44 statue of 279 tomb of 276-7 Carthage, St 145 Casement, Roger 156 Cashel 195 hotels 307 restaurants 335 Rock of Cashel 27, 122, 181, 195, **196-7** Cashel Bay hotels 310 Cashels (stone forts) 21 Castle, Richard 21 Belvedere House (Mullingar) 249 Conolly's Folly (Castletown House) 131 Leinster House (Dublin) 65 Powerscourt 134

Rotunda Hospital (Dublin) 86,

Russborough House 41, 132

Strokestown Park House 218

Castle Archdale Country Park

Lower Lough Erne tour 271

Westport House 205

Castle Caldwell Forest Park Lower Lough Erne tour 270 Castle Coole 255, 272 Castle Inn (Dublin) 112 Castle Matrix 184 Castle Ward 284 Castle Ward Opera 49 Castlebaldwin restaurants 339 Castlebar hotels 310 Castlecoote hotels 310 Castlelyons hotels 303 Castlerea hotels 310 Castlereagh, Lord 282, 283 Castletownshend hotels 303 pubs 347 restaurants 331 Castles Ashford Castle 209 Athlone Castle 249 Aughnanure Castle 209 Ballyhack Castle 148 Belfast Castle 279 Birr Castle 253 Black Castle 195 Blackrock Castle 177 Blarney Castle 171 Bourchier's Castle 195 Bunratty Castle 181, 192-3 Cahir Castle 198 Carrickfergus Castle 36-7, 275 Carrigafoyle Castle 156 Carrignacurra Castle 171 Desmond Castle (Adare) 194 Desmond Castle (Kinsale) 172 Doe Castle 225 Donegal Castle 230 Dublin Castle 54, 74, **76–7** Dunguaire Castle 212 Dunluce Castle 261 Dunseverick Castle 261 Dysert O'Dea 189 Enniscorthy Castle 149 Enniskillen Castle 272 Glenveagh Castle 224-5 Green Castle 285 Hillsborough Castle 281 Jordan's Castle 284 Kilclief Castle 284 Kilkenny Castle 123, 143, 144 Kinbane Castle 261 King John's Castle (Carlingford) 242 King John's Castle (Limerick) Knappogue Castle 189 Kylemore Abbey 208 Leamaneagh Castle 188 Lismore Castle 145 Malahide Castle 102 Monea Castle 271 Ormond Castle 199 Parke's Castle 233 Portumna Castle 213 Rathlannon Castle 151 Reginald's Tower (Waterford) 146 Roscommon Castle 218

Castles (cont.) Roscrea Castle 195 Ross Castle 162 Slade Castle 148 Trim Castle 237, 248 Tully Castle 270 Tullynally Castle 241 Castledermot hotels 300 restaurants 329 Castletown House 125, 130-1 stucco 21 Castletownbere 166 Castlewellan Forest Park 284 Cathach Books (Dublin) 107 Cathedrals Ardfert 156 Christ Church (Dublin) 54, 74, 80-1 Christchurch (Waterford) 146 Clonfert 201, 213 Down (Downpatrick) 281 Holy Trinity (Waterford) 146 Rock of Cashel 197 St Aidan's (Enniscorthy) 149 St Anne's (Belfast) 276-7 St Brigid's (Kildare) 128-9 St Canice's (Kilkenny) 144 St Carthage (Lismore) 145 St Colman's (Cobh) 178 St Columb's (Londonderry) 258, 259 St Declan's (Ardmore) 145 St Eunan (Letterkenny) 227 St Finbarr's (Cork) 175 St Flannan's (Killaloe) 190 St John's (Limerick) 191 St Mary's (Limerick) 191 St Mary's Pro-Cathedral (Dublin) 87, 89 St Nicholas (Galway) 210 St Patrick's (Armagh) 274 St Patrick's (Dublin) 54, 82-3 St Patrick's (Trim) 248 see also Churches in Dublin Catholic Church 16 Battle of the Boyne 244 emancipation 42 Knock 205 Protestant conquest 31, 38-9 Catholic University of Ireland (Dublin) 61 Causeway Coast 255, 261 Cavan, County 237, 255 see also Midlands Caves

Aillwee Cave 188

Cave Hill (Belfast) 279

Marble Arch Caves 273

Celtic Cycling (Bagenalstown)

Celtic Whiskey Shop (Dublin)

Dunmore Cave 144

Céide Fields 201, 204

Celtic Note (Dublin) 107

Celtic heritage 26-7

Christianity 34–5 High Crosses 243

history 32-3

266

366

107

Celts 32-3

Bruce's Cave (Rathlin Island)

Clannad 17

Clara, Vale of see Vale of Clara

Central Cyber Café (Dublin) 381 Clare, County 181 Colman, St 206 Central Fisheries Board 366 see also Lower Shannon Colmcille, St see Columba, St Ceramics Clare, Richard de see Strongbow Colmcille Heritage Centre 225 Belleek Pottery 269 Colthurst family 171 Clare Abbey 189 Clare Island 206 shops 353, 355 Columba, St (St Colmcille) 34 What to Buy in Ireland 357 Clarendon 83 Colmcille Heritage Centre 225 Chambers, Sir William Clarinbridge Glencolumbkille 228 Marino Casino (Dublin) 100 pubs 349 Kells Monastery 241 Trinity College (Dublin) 62 Clarke, Harry 175 Londonderry 258, 259 Chapel Royal (Dublin Castle) 76 The Meeting of St Brendan St Columba's House (Kells) 241 Chapters Books (Dublin) 107 and the Unhappy Judas 174 Tory Island 224 Charlemont, 1st Earl of 41, 100 Clarke, Tom 45 Columbanus, St 34 Charles II, King of England 218 Claudio's (Dublin) 107 Comhairle 373 Charles Fort (Kinsale) 153, 172 Cleggan 207 Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Charlotte, Queen 168 restaurants 337 (Monkstown) 361 Le Cherche Midi (Dublin) 107 Cleggan Hill 207 Comyn, John, Archbishop of Chester Beatty, Sir Alfred 77 Clements family 235 Dublin 80, 81, 82 Chester Beatty Library and Clery's (Dublin) 107 Cong 209 Gallery of Oriental Art Clifden 206-7 hotels 292, 310 (Dublin) 77 hotels 310 restaurants 337 Chieftains 17, 24 pubs 349 Cong Abbey 209 Children of Lir 27 restaurants 337 Connaught 201 Children of Lir (Kelly) 91 Clifden Bay 207 Connemara 19, 201 China shops 353, 355 Clifford Antiques (Dublin) 107 map 207 Christ Church Cathedral Cliffs of Moher 182, 184, 188 wildlife 208-9 (Dublin) 54, 80-1 Climate 49-51 Connemara Marble Factory Street-by-Street map 74 Clochán na Carraige 214 (Galway) 355 Christianity Clockwork Orange (Belfast) 355 Connemara National Park 122, Celtic Christianity 34-5 Clonakilty 170 208 hotels 303 St Patrick 31 Connolly, James 45, 97 Christmas 51 pubs 347 Conolly, Katherine 131 Christy Bird (Dublin) 107 Conolly, William 130, 131 Clonalis House 201, 218 Clonanav Fly Fishing Centre Conolly's Folly (Castletown Churches religious services 371 (Ballymacarbry) 366 House) 131 see also Cathedrals Continental Airlines 383 Clones Churches in Dublin hotels 315 Conversion chart 373 Clonfert Cathedral 201, 213 Cook, Alan 268 St Ann's 58, 61 St Audoen's 79 Clonmacnoise 31, 250-1 Cook, Thomas 379 St Audoen's Roman Catholic Nuns' Church 35, 238 Cookery holidays 361 Church 79 Temple Finghin round tower Cookstown 268 St Michan's 92 237 Coole Park 213 St Werburgh's 74 Clonmel 199 Cooley, Thomas 77 University Church 61 hotels 307 Cooley Peninsula 237, 242 Whitefriar Street Carmelite restaurants 336 Copeland Islands 280 Clontarf, Battle of (1014) 34 Coral Strand Beach 207 Church 83 Ciaran, St 250 Cork 174-7 Clothes Cigarettes, duty-free allowances Dublin shops **106**, 107 ferries 384-5 372 in restaurants 320 hotels 303 map 174-5 Cinema see Film shops 354, 355 What to Buy in Ireland 356 Cistercian order 35 pubs 347 Assaroe Abbey 231 Cloverhill restaurants 332 Visitors' Checklist 175 Boyle Abbey 219 hotels 315 Duiske Abbey 149 Cloyne Cork, County, see Cork and Kerry Holy Cross Abbey 195 hotels 303 Hore Abbey 195 Inch Abbey 281 Club M (Dublin nightclub) 113 Cork, Earls of 82-3, 179 Coach tours 392-3 Cork, Katherine Boyle, Countess Jerpoint Abbey 145 Coastguard services 375 of 82-3 Mellifont Abbey 245 Coasts 18 Cork and Kerry 153-79 hotels 302-6 Portumna Priory 213 Cobblestone (Dublin) 112 Cobh 153, 178-9 map 154-5 St Mary's (Dublin) 93 Coins 376–7 pubs 347-8 Tintern Abbey 148 City Arts Centre (Dublin) 112 Cole family 273 restaurants 331-4 City Discs (Dublin) 107 Cole Monument (Enniskillen) 272 Cork Choral Festival 48 Cork City Gaol 175 Colebrook Park City Hall (Belfast) 255, 276 Cork Film Festival 50, 361 City Hall (Dublin) 77 (Brookeborough) 367 Coleraine 260 Cork International Airport 383 Street-by-Street map 74 City Hospital 375 hotels 318 Cork Jazz Festival 50, 361 Citybus (Belfast) 393 Collins, Michael 45 Cork Week 29 Cityjet 383 Collins Barracks (Dublin) 101 Corofin hotels 307-308 Civil war 44, 93, 153 Collinstown Clan na Gael 43 Corrib, Lough 209, 210 hotels 315

Collon

restaurants 341

Corrigan, Mairead 47

Corrs 24

De Burgo family 213 Costello, Edward 235 Croagh Patrick 201, 205 Crohy Head 228 De Lorean 47 Costello, John A 46 Croke Park (Dublin) 50, 366 De Valera, Eamon 45 Costume (Dublin) 107 Anglo-Irish Treaty 44 Cottages 20 Crolly becomes President 46 Country house accommodation pubs 350 Cromwell, Oliver Catholic University of Ireland 288-9 destruction of buildings 20 Country houses 21 Garden of Remembrance Avondale House 141 history 38 Bantry House 168-9 Macroom Castle 171 (Dublin) 91 imprisonment 97 Belvedere House (Mullingar) sacks Galway 210 Deane, Sir Thomas 65, 66 sacks Kilkenny 144 240 Declan, St 145 siege of Drogheda 39, 244 Blarney House 171 Wexford 150 Deerfield, Phoenix Park Carrigglas Manor 240-1 Castle Coole 255, 272 Crookhaven 167 (Dublin) 96 Degas, Edgar, Beach Scene 91 Castle Ward 284 Croom Delaney, Edward 61 restaurants 336 Castletown House 125, 130-1 Cross of Cong 67, 209 Delphi (Connemara) 203 Clonalis House 201, 218 Delphi (Dublin) 107 Derrynane House 164 Crossdone Dunkathel House 177 hotels 315 Delphi Lodge (Connemara) 292 Crosses see High Crosses Delta Air Lines 383 Emo Court 253 Department stores, Dublin 104, Florence Court 273 Crossmolina Fota House 178 hotels 310 Crown Liquor Saloon (Belfast) Glin Castle 184 Derg, Lough 183, 185, 190, 213, Iohnstown Castle 150–1 230 Killrudderv House 133 Cruinniú na mBád (Kinvarra) 49 Derry see Londonderry Cruising and sailing 365, 367 Derrynane House Lissadell House 231 Mount Stewart House 255, Crystal Ring of Kerry tour 164 shops 353, 355 Derryveagh Mountains 224-5 282-3 Desmond, Earls of 195 Muckross House (Killarney) Tyrone Crystal (Dungannon) Desmond Castle (Adare) 194 159, 162 273, 355 Waterford Crystal 147 Desmond Castle (Kinsale) Parke's Castle 233 Powerscourt 123, 134-5 What to Buy in Ireland 357 172, 176 Puxley Mansion 166 Cúchulainn 26, 44, 274 Desmond rebellion (1582) 38 Devenish Island 35, 271 Russborough House 41, 125, Culdaff pubs 350 Lower Lough Erne tour 271 Strokestown Park House 201, Cultural holidays 360, 361 Devil's Glen 139 218-19 Cumann na nGaedheal 45 Devonshire, Duke of 145 Dice Bar (Dublin) 113 Currachs (rowing boats) 214 Talbot Castle 248 Dingle 157 Westport House 201, 204-5 Curragh, the Country music 109, 112, 359, 361 hotels 300 Dingle Peninsula tour 159 Countryside Alliance 367 Curragh Racecourse 366 hotels 304 County Wexford Strawberry Fair Currency 376-7 pubs 348 Curtain walls 21 restaurants 332 County Wicklow Garden Cushendall 267 Dingle Peninsula Festival 48, 361 hotels 318 hotels 304 Custom House (Dublin) 55, 85, tour of 158-9 Courbet, Gustave 91 Courcy, John de 36, 275, 281 88 wildlife 18 Courtmacsherry Dingle Record Shop (Dingle) 355 history 41 hotels 303 Street-by-Street map 87 Disability Action 373 Covered Market (Dublin) Customs allowances 372 Disabled travellers 372 Street-by-Street map 75 Cycleways (Dublin) 366, 389 hotels 291 sports 365, 367 Cycling 363 cultural holidays 361 cycling holidays 366 Discounts shops 353, 355 on trains 389 student 372 Crafts Council of Ireland renting 389 on trains 391 (Kilkenny) 355 Distilleries see Whiskey Craftworks Shop (Belfast) 355 Diversions (Dublin cinema) 113 Craggaunowen 190 Dáil Éireann 65 Dixon, James 224 Cramillion, Bartholomew 90 history 44 Doaghbeg 225 Cranberries 17, 24 Mansion House (Dublin) 61 Doe Castle 225 Crannogs 21, 33 Dalkey 103 Doheny & Nesbitt (Dublin bar) Crawdaddy (Dublin nightclub) restaurants 328 113 Dalkey Island 103 Dolmens 32 Crawford, William Horatio 174 Browne's Hill 141 Dan Dooley 389 Crawford Art Gallery (Cork) 361 Dance Carrowmore Megalithic Crawford Municipal Art Gallery classical 109, 112, 359, 361 Cemetery 234 (Cork) 174-5 traditional 24, 25, 109, 112, Legananny 32, 284 Crawfordsburn 359, 361 Poulnabrone 188 hotels 318 D'Arcy, John 206, 207 Dominican order 36 Credit cards 352, 378 DART rail service (Dublin) 393 Donaghadee 280 Crime 374 Donegal 230 Davitt, Michael 43 hotels 292, 313

Davy Byrne's (Dublin pub) 113

Dawson, Joshua 61

pubs 350

Crinkill

pubs 350

Donegal County 220, 255	Dublin County	I D . 6 II
Donegal, County 229, 255 see also Northwest Ireland	Dublin, County hotels 297–8	Duty-free allowances 372
Donegal Abbey 230	restaurants 327–8	DV Diving (Newtownards) 367
Donegal Castle 230	Dublin Dental Hospital 375	Dwyer, Michael 139 Dysert O'Dea 181, <b>189</b>
Donegal Craft Village 230	Dublin Exhibition (1853) 43	High Cross 243
Donnybrook (Dublin)	Dublin Film Festival 51	
hotels 297	Dublin Horse Show 29, 49	E
Doolin 184, 188	Dublin Literary Pub Crawl 113	Eamonn Doran's (Dublin) 112
pubs 348	Dublin Marathon 29	Earhart, Amelia 259
restaurants 336	Dublin Theatre Festival 50, 112	Eason and Son (Cork) 355
Doolin Crafts Gallery 355	Dublin Tourism Centre 112	Easter 51
Dooney Rock	Dublin Writers Museum 21, 91	Easter Rising (1916) 44–5
Yeats Country tour 233	Dublinia (Dublin) 79	flag 66
Down, County 255 map 256–7	Street-by-Street map 74	Garden of Remembrance
see also Northern Ireland	Duiske Abbey 149 The Duke (Dublin) 113	(Dublin) <b>91</b> General Post Office (Dublin)
Down County Museum	Duleek	86, <b>89</b>
(Downpatrick) 281	hotels 315	Kilmainham Gaol (Dublin) 97
Downhill	Dún Aonghasa 214	easyJet 383
hotels 318	Dún Duchathair 215	Edgeworth, Maria 22
Downpatrick 281	Dún Eochla 215	Edwards, Hilton 90
hotels 318	Dún Eoghanachta 214	Edwards, John 91
Dowth 244, <b>245</b>	Dun Laoghaire 102–3	Eida, Minoru 129
Doyle, Roddy 23	ferries 384, 385	Eida, Tassa 129
Drimneen, River 209	restaurants 328	Éigse Sliabh Rua (Slieverue) 50
Drogheda 244	Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown	Elegant Ireland 291
hotels 315 Drogheda, Farls of 128	County Council 367 Dunamase, Rock of <b>253</b>	Elizabeth I, Queen of England 179, 255
Drogheda, Earls of 128 Drogheda, siege of (1689) 39	Dunan, bishop of Dublin 80	and Grace O'Malley 206
Dromahair	Dunbeg Fort	Trinity College (Dublin) 62
pubs 350	Dingle Peninsula tour 159	Emain Macha 274
Drombeg Stone Circle 170	Dunbrody Abbey 148	Embassies 373
Druid Theatre (Galway) 361	Duncannon 148	Emerald Star (Carrick-on-
Druids 26	Dundalk <b>242</b>	Shannon) 367
Druid's Circle (Kenmare) 166	pubs 350	Emergencies 381
Drumcliff	restaurants 341	Emigration 42–3, 178
hotels 313	Dundrum Mourne Coast tour 285	Ulster-American Folk Park <b>269</b> Emmet, Robert 42, 60, <b>77</b>
Yeats Country tour 232 Drumgooland House Equestrian	restaurants 344	grave 92
Centre (Downpatrick) 367	Dunfanaghy 225	imprisonment 97
Drumlane 240	hotels 313	Emo Court 21, 41, 253
Dublin 53–119	Dungannon 273	Enda, St 214
buses 392, 393	hotels 318	Ennis <b>189</b>
canals 101	restaurants 344	hotels 308
Christ Church Cathedral <b>80–1</b>	Dungarvan	pubs 348
cinema 109 DART rail service 393	hotels 300 restaurants 329	restaurants 336 Enniscorthy 125, <b>149</b>
entertainment 108–15	Dungloe 228	hotels 300
ferries 384, 385	festivals 49	pubs 346
festivals 48	Dunguaire Castle 212	Enniscorthy Castle 149
further afield 95–103	Dunkathel House 177	Enniskerry 139
Georgian terraces 69	Dunkineely	restaurants 329
hotels 294–8	hotels 313	Enniskillen 272
map 54–5	restaurants 339	hotels 318
nightclubs 111	Dunlavin hotels 300	Lower Lough Erne tour 271 pubs 351
North of the Liffey <b>85–93</b> pubs 110–11	Dunloe, Gap of 163	restaurants 344
restaurants 324–8	Dunluce Castle 261	Enniskillen, William Cole, 1st
shopping 104–7	Dunmore Cave 144	Earl of 273
Southeast Dublin <b>57–71</b>	Dunmore East 125, <b>148</b>	Enniskillen Castle 272
Southwest Dublin 73-83	hotels 300	Ensor, John 68, 90
Street Finder 116–19	pubs 346	Entertainment 358–61
theatre 108	Dunmore Head	banquets 360
train services 390	Dingle Peninsula tour 158	booking tickets <b>358</b> , 361
Trinity College <b>62–3</b>	Dunquin	classical music, opera and
weather 49–51 Dublin Airport 383	pubs 348 Dunraven, Earls of 194	dance <b>359</b> , 361 cultural holidays <b>360</b> , 361
Dublin Bike Tours 366	Dunree Head	Dublin <b>108–15</b>
Dublin Bus 393	Inishowen Peninsula tour 226	festivals <b>360</b> , 361
Dublin Castle (Dublin) 54, 76-7	Dunseverick Castle 261	information sources 358
Street-by-Street map 74	Durrus	major venues 358
Dublin Civic Museum (Dublin)	restaurants 333	rock, jazz and country <b>359</b> , 361
Street-by-Street map 75	Dursey Island 166	theatre <b>358</b> , 361

Entertainment (cont.) Fitzwilliam Square (Dublin) 68 Gaelic language 17, 229, 371 traditional music and dance Five Counties Holidays 367 cultural holidays 361 **359**, 361 Flame (Carrickfergus) 275 Gaeltachts 201, 229 The Entries (Belfast) 277 Fleadh Nua (Ennis) 48 literature 22 Enva 24 "Flight of the Earls" 39, 255 Gaiety Theatre (Dublin) 112 Equestrian Holidays Ireland 367 "Flight of the Wild Geese" 181 Gainsborough, Thomas 132 Erne, Lough 235, 255 Florence Court 273 Galbally 198 Lower Lough Erne tour 270-1 restaurants 344 Galilei, Alessandro 130 Focus Theatre (Dublin) 112 Erne, River 231, 240 Gallarus Oratory 157 Erne Marine (Enniskillen) 367 Dingle Peninsula tour 159 Foley, John Errigal Mountain 224 monument to Daniel Galleries Euro 377 O'Connell 87 Dublin 106, 107 Eurolines 385 statue of Edmund Burke 62 see also Museums and Europe, map 12 statue of Henry Grattan 60 galleries European Union 15-16, 46 statue of Oliver Goldsmith 62 Gallery of Photography (Dublin) Everyman Palace Theatre (Cork) Food and drink 107 361 fast foods 321 Galty Mountains 181 fish and chips 321 Exploris (Portaferry) 280 Galway 201, 203, 210-11 Eyeries 166 Guinness 98-9 hotels 310-11 shops 105, 107, 353, 355 map 211 What to Buy in Ireland 357 pubs 349 Fáilte Ireland (Dublin) 371 see also Pubs; Restaurants restaurants 337-8 Fair Head 267 Football 29, 366 Galway, County 201 see also West of Ireland Fairies 26 For the Road (J Yeats) 70 Fairyhouse (Rataoth) 366 Fore Abbey 237, 241 Galway Arts Festival 49, 361 Galway Bay Golf Club Falcarragh 221 Forgotten Cotton (Cork) 355 Famine see Great Famine Forts (modern) (Oranmore) 366 Fanad Peninsula 225 Charles Fort (Kinsale) 172 Galway hookers 211, 212 Farmhouse accommodation 290 Elizabeth Fort (Cork) 176 Galway Irish Crystal (Galway) Farney Castle 195 Hillsborough Fort 281 Farran Forts (prehistoric) 20, 21 Galway Oyster Festival 50, 201 hotels 304 Aran Islands 214, 215 Galway Race Week 29 Fashion shops 354, 355 Cahermore Stone Fort 188 Gandon, James Dublin 106, 107 Dún Aonghasa 214 Bank of Ireland (Dublin) 60 Feakle Traditional Music Dún Duchathair 215 Carrigglas Manor 241 Weekend 361 Dún Eochla 215 Custom House (Dublin) 41, The Feast of St Kevin amid the Dunbeg Fort 159 55, 88 Ruins of Glendalough Emo Court 41, 253 Grianán Ailigh 226, 227 (Peacock) 31 Hill of Tara 248 Four Courts (Dublin) 92-3 Fechin, St 209, 241 Lisnagun Ring Fort 170 King's Inns (Dublin) 92 Feis Ceoil 48 Navan Fort (Armagh) 274 Gap of Dunloe 163 Rock of Dunamase 253 Fenians 43, 174 Gap of Mamore Fergus, River 189 Staigue Fort 164 Inishowen Peninsula tour 226 Fermanagh, County 255 Fosters Clothing (Derry) 355 Garavogue, River 234 see also Northern Ireland Fota House and Gardens 178 Garden of Remembrance Fermanagh County Museum Fota Wildlife Park 178-9 (Dublin) 91 (Enniskillen) 272 Four Courts (Dublin) 92-3 Gardens see Parks and gardens Fermoy 177 4 Dame Lane (Dublin bar) 112 Gardiner, Luke 88 Ferries 384-6 Foxford 205 Garinish Island 166-7 Aran Islands 215 Foyle, River 258, 259 Garter Lane Theatre (Waterford) Ferrycarrig Foynes 184 361 hotels 300 Francini, Paolo and Filippo 21 Garthorne, Francis 81 Festivals 48-51, 360, 361 Castletown House 131 Gate Theatre (Dublin) 90, 112 Fianna Fáil 17, 45 Newman House (Dublin) 61 Dublin's Best: Entertainment Film 23 Russborough House 132 114 Dublin 111, 113 festivals 48, 50, 51 Franciscan order Street-by-Street map 86 The Annals of the Four Geldof, Bob 47 Finbarr, St 171, 174, 175 Masters 39 General Post Office (Dublin) 89 Fine Gael 17, 45 Ennis Friary 189 Easter Rising 45 Finn MacCool 26-7, 267 Muckross Abbey 162 Street-by-Street map 86 Giant's Causeway 123, 262, 263 Quin Franciscan Friary 189 General Strike (1913) 44 Lough Neagh 274 Timoleague Abbey 170–1 Geoffrey Healy Pottery Fire services 375 Freebird Records (Dublin) 107 (Kilmacanaogue) 355 Fish and chips 321 French, Percy 285 George III, King of England 168 Fishing 28, **362–3**, 366 George IV, King of England 272 Friel, Brian 23 Fitzgerald, "Silken Thomas", 38, Abbey Theatre (Dublin) 88, 115 George's Street Market Arcade 79, 93 Fry, Cyril 102 (Dublin) 107 Fitzgerald family (Earls of Fungie (dolphin) 157, 159 Georgian country houses 21 Kildare) 125, 181 Fureys 24 Georgian Ireland 40-1 Adare 194 Dublin terraces 69 G Knights of Glin 184 Gerard Manley-Hopkins Fitzgibbon, Marjorie 87 Gaelic Athletic Association 29, 43 Summer School

Gaelic football 29

(Monasterevin) 361

Fitzmaurice, Thomas 156

Healy Pass 166 Giant's Causeway 123, 255, Grafton Street (Dublin) 60 Heaney, Séamus 22, 23 Street-by-Street map 58 262 - 3Henry II, King of England 31, Causeway Coast 261 Graiguenamanagh 126, 149 36, 150 legends 27 Grand Canal 101 Henry VIII, King of England 38 Giant's Ring (Belfast) 279 Gibson, Mel 248 Grand Central (Dublin bar) 113 breaks with Catholic Church 31 Grand Opera House (Belfast) Gifford, Grace 97 276, 361 Christ Church Cathedral (Dublin) 81 Gift shops, Dublin 105, 107 Grattan, Henry 40 statue of 60 Silken Thomas's rebellion 93 Gill, Lough 221 Henry, Mitchell 208 Gladstone, William Ewart 43 Temple Bar (Dublin) 78 Glanmire, River 177 Heraldic Artists (Dublin) 107 The Grave Diggers (Dublin bar) Heritage Service 370-71 113 Glassware Great Famine (1845-8) 42-3, Heritage Week 50 shops 353, 355 Hertz 389 Tyrone Crystal (Dungannon) 201, 219 273, 355 Heuston, Sean J 44 emigration 15, 31 Hiberno-Romanesque Waterford Crystal 147 Famine Museum (Strokestown What to Buy in Ireland 357 Park House) 219 architecture 21 Glebe House and Gallery 225 Great Southern Hotels 291 Hidden Ireland 291 Great Sugar Loaf High Crosses 243 Glen of Aherlow 198 hotels 308 Military Road tour 138 Ahenny 199, 243 Glenariff Forest Park 267 Ardboe 268 Greater Dublin, maps 13, 95 El Greco 70 Armagh 274 Glenbeg Lough 166 Green Castle Carndonagh Cross 226 Glenbeigh Ring of Kerry tour 164 Clonmacnoise 250 Mourne Coast tour 285 Green Flag National Breakdown Duiske Abbey 149 Glencar Dysert O'Dea 181, 189, 243 pubs 348 389 Glendalough 140 Glencar Lough Greencastle Yeats Country tour 233 Inishowen Peninsula tour 227 Kells 241 Glencolumbkille 228-9 restaurants 340 Kilfenora 188 Gregory XVI, Pope 83 Gregory, Lady 22, 90 Abbey Theatre (Dublin) 88 Kilkieran 199 Glencree Monasterboice 242, 243 Military Road tour 138 Glencullen (County Dublin) Rock of Cashel 196 restaurants 328 Coole Park 212, 213 Hill, Arthur 281 Grey Abbey 280 Hill, Derek 224, 225 Glendalough 31, 34-5, 140-1 Greyhound Derby 29 Hill of Slane 245 hotels 300 Hill of Tara 237, 248 Greystones map 140 Military Road tour 138 restaurants 329 Hillsborough 281 Grianán Ailigh 227 pubs 351 Glengarriff 167 Gleninsheen Wedge Tomb 188 Inishowen Peninsula tour 226 restaurants 344 Hillsborough Castle 281 Glenmacnass Gris, Juan, Pierrot 70 Grogan's (Dublin bar) 113 Hillsborough Fort 281 Military Road tour 138 Guaire, King of Connaught 212 Hilser Brothers (Cork) 355 Glens of Antrim 267 Glenties Guesthouses 289 History 31-47 HMV (Dublin shop) 112 restaurants 339 Guide Friday 393 Glenveagh Castle 224-5 Holiday Autos 389 Guinness 17 Glenveagh National Park 224, 225 The Brewing of Guinness 98–9 Holidays, public 51 Guinness Storehouse (Dublin) Holy Cross Abbey 195 Glin 184 Holy Island 171, 190 hotels 308 98, 107 What to Buy in Ireland 357 Holywood Glin, Knights of 184 Glin Castle 184 Guinness, Arthur 41, 98, 99 hotels 318 Global Internet Café (Dublin) 381 Guinness, Sir Benjamin 82 restaurants 345 The Globe (Dublin bar) 113 Home Rule 31, 42, 43 Guinness, Desmond 82 Hook Head 148 Gogarty, Oliver St John 103 Guinness family 61 Hook Peninsula 148 Golden Discs (Galway) 355 Gur, Lough 181, 194-5 Hookers, Galway 211, 212 Goldsmith, Oliver 22 Hore Abbey 195 statue of 62 Hag's Head 184 Horn Head 225 Trinity College (Dublin) 62 Hallowe'en 50 Horse Racing Ireland 366 Goldsmith Summer School Hambletonian (Stubbs) 283 Horses (Ballymahon) 361 Horse Ploughing Match and Handel, George Frederick Goleen Heavy Horse Show Messiah 40, 81 hotels 304 (Ballycastle) 48 St Michan's Church (Dublin) Golf 364, 366-7 Golfing Union of Ireland 366 horse-drawn caravans 291 National Stud 129 Hanly, Daithí 91 Good Friday Agreement (1998) racing 28, 129, 362, 366 Ha'penny Bridge (Dublin) 93 15, 31, 47 riding and pony trekking 364, Gore-Booth, Sir Robert 231 Ha'penny Bridge Inn (Dublin) Gore-Booth family 231, 232 112 Hotels 288-319 Harland, Sir Edward 276 Gorey Harold's Cross Stadium (Dublin) booking 289 hotels 300 Cork and Kerry 302-6 366 restaurants 329 Harps 24-5 country house Gort, Lord 192, 193 accommodation 288-9 Gougane Barra Park 171 Hastings Hotels 291

Hawks Well Theatre (Sligo) 361

Health 375

Goya y Lucientes, Francisco

José de 70

disabled travellers 291

Dublin 294-8

Hotels (cont.)	Ireland Line Cruisers (Killaloe)	James Murtagh Jewellers
guesthouses 289	367	(Westport) 355
Ireland's Best 292–3	Ireland's Eye (Howth) 102	Jameson, John 92
Lower Shannon 306–9	Irish Angling Update 366	Jameson International Dublin
The Midlands 314–16	Irish Car Rentals 389	Film Festival 48
Northern Ireland 316–19 Northwest Ireland 312–14	Irish Champion Hurdle 28	Japanese Gardens (Kildare) 129 Jazz <b>359</b> , 361
prices 289	Irish Citizen Army 89 Irish Derby 28	Dublin 109, 112
Southeast Ireland 299–302	Irish Farmhouse Holidays Ltd 291	festivals 50
tipping in 289	Irish Federation of Sea Anglers	Jerpoint Abbey 145
West of Ireland 309-12	366	Jerpoint Glass (Stoneyford) 355
Houghton, Ray 47	Irish Ferries 385	Jervis Centre (Dublin) 107
House rentals 290	Irish Film Centre (Dublin) 78	Jewellery
Houses, Castles & Gardens of Ireland 361	Irish Film Institute (Dublin) 113	shops <b>354</b> , 355
Howth 102	Irish Football League Cup 28 Irish Free State 31	What to Buy in Ireland 356 John Paul II, Pope
restaurants 327–8	Anglo-Irish Treaty (1921) 44, 45	Clonmacnoise 250
Howth Head 95, 102	Irish Parliament 65	in Phoenix Park (Dublin) 47,
Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of	Irish Georgian Society 130	96
Modern Art (Dublin) 91, 112	Irish Grand National 28	pilgrimage to Knock 205
Hughes, John Joseph 269	Irish Hotels Federation 291	Johnson, Ester (Stella) 82, 83
Huguenots in Cork 176	Irish Ladies Golfing Union 366 Irish Language Conversation	Johnston, Denis 90 Johnston, Francis 76, 92
linen industry 41, 268	Classes 361	Johnston, Richard 272
St Patrick's Cathedral (Dublin)	Irish Master of Foxhounds	Johnstown Castle 150–1
82	Association 367	Jordan's Castle 284
Hume, John 15	Irish Museum of Modern Art -	Joyce, James 17, 23, 90
Hungry Hill 166	Royal Hospital Kilmainham	Bloomsday (Dublin) 48
Hunt, John 190, 191 Hunter's Hotel 293	(Dublin) 97	bust of 60
Hunting <b>365</b> , 367	Irish National Heritage Park <b>150</b> Irish Open Golf Championship	Catholic University of Ireland 61
Hurling 29, 50	29	and Ennis 189
Hyde, Douglas 61	Irish Open Office (Dublin) 366	James Joyce Cultural Centre
memorial 83	Irish Parliament 65	(Dublin) 86, 90
	Irish Rail 391	James Joyce Summer School
In the Alabara 201	Irish Republican Army (IRA)	(Dublin) 361
Inch Abbey 281 Inchagoill 209	ceasefire 15 Enniskillen bomb 272	James Joyce Tower (Sandycove) <b>103</b>
Inchydoney 170	history 45	National Library (Dublin) 59, 65
Independent Holiday Hostels of	Troubles 31, 46, 47	St Stephen's Green (Dublin) 60
Ireland 291	Irish Republican Brotherhood 43	statues of 85, 87
Inis Oirr	Irish Revival 22, 23	Ulysses 23, 48, 90, 103, 189
restaurants 338	Irish Rugby Football Union	Joy's (Dublin nightclub) 113
Inis Saimer 231 Inishbofin <b>206</b>	366 Irish Surfing Association 367	Judith with the Head of
hotels 311	Irish Underwater Council 367	Holofernes (Mantegna) 71 Jury's Hotel (Dublin) 112, 291
Inisheer 214	Irish Volunteers (18th century) 41	
Inishmaan 214	Irish Volunteers (20th century)	K
Inishmore 214	Easter Rising 89	The K Club (Straffan) 366
restaurants 338	Garden of Remembrance	Kanturk 177
Inishowen Peninsula tour <b>226–7</b>	(Dublin) 91	hotels 304
restaurants 340 Inistioge 149	Irish Ways (Gorey) 366 Irish Wheelchair Association 367	Kavanagh, Patrick 23, 88 Keadue
hotels 301	Iron Age 32	festivals 49
Inland Fisheries (Belfast) 366	see also Forts (prehistoric)	Kearney, Kate 163
Innisfree see Isle of Innisfree	Isaac Butt's (Dublin nightclub)	Keenan, Paddy 24
Innishannon	113	Kehoe's (Dublin bar) 113
hotels 304	Isle of Innisfree	Keith Prowse Travel (IRL) Ltd
Insurance cars 387	Yeats Country tour 233	361 Kells <b>241</b>
travel 374	Isle of Man Steam Packet and SeaCat 385	
International Bar (Dublin) 112	Iveagh House (Dublin) 61	monastery 35, 241 restaurants 341
International Financial Service		see also Book of Kells
Centre (IFSC) (Dublin)	J	Kelly, Oisín, Children of Lir 91
hotels 298	Jackson, Andrew 275	Keltic Knott (Ballydehob) 355
restaurants 328	James I, King of England 39, 240	Kenmare 166
International Rally of the Lakes	James II, King of England	hotels 304
28	Battle of the Boyne 31, 38–9,	restaurants 333
International Sailing Centre	49, 102, <b>244</b>	Kenmare, Earl of 90 Kennedy, John F 46, 149
(Cobh) 367 Internet access 380, 381	Carrickfergus Castle 275 Christ Church Cathedral	John F Kennedy Park and
Interpretative centres 371	(Dublin) 81	Arboretum (New Ross) 149
IRA see Irish Republican Army	siege of Derry 259	Kennedy Homestead 149

hotels 308

Languages see Gaelic language Kenny's Bookshop and Art Kilmessan Lansdowne, Marquess of 166 Gallery (Galway) 355 hotels 315 Kerry, County see Cork and Kilmore Quay 151 Lanyon, Sir Charles Custom House (Belfast) 279 Kerry pubs 347 Kevin, St 140, 141 Kilmurvey Beach 215 Queen's University (Belfast) Kevin & Howlin (Dublin) 107 Kilnacduagh 201 278 Trinity College (Dublin) 62 Kilnaleck Key, Lough 185, 219 pubs 350 Laois, County 237 Kilbeggan 249 see also Midlands Kilronan 215 pubs 350 Kilrush 184 Larkin, James Kilcar pubs 349 statues of 86, 89 restaurants 340 Kilclief Castle 284 Kilvahan Caravans 291 Larne 275 Kinbane Castle 261 ferries 386 Kilcolgan restaurants 338 Kincasslagh Last Circuit of Pilgrims at restaurants 340 Clonmacnoise (Petrie) 250 Kildare 125, 128-9 King John's Castle (Carlingford) Lavery, Sir John 278 restaurants 329 Lawless, Matthew James, The Kildare, County 125 242 see also Southeast Ireland King John's Castle (Limerick) 191 Sick Call 71 Layde Old Church 267 Kildare, 8th Earl of 38 King's Inns (Dublin) 92 feud with Earl of Ormonde 83 Kingston, Earls of 219 Laytown Beach Races 48 and Lambert Simnel 37, 81 Kinnegad Leamaneagh Castle 188 Kildare, 19th Earl of 74 restaurants 342 Lean, David 156 Kilfenora 188 Kinnitty 253 Leane, Lough 163 hotels 315 Kilgallon, Thomas 231 Leap restaurants 334 Kilkee pubs 351 Kinsale 153, 155 Lecale Peninsula 284 hotels 308 hotels 305 Kilkeel Lee, River 171 pubs 348 in Cork 174, 175, 176 hotels 319 restaurants 333-4 Cork environs 177 Kilkenny 27, 125, 142-4 Street-by-Street map 172-3 Lee, Sir Thomas 38 hotels 301 Kinsale International Festival of Leenane pubs 346 hotels 292, 311 Fine Food 50 restaurants 330 Street-by-Street map 142-3 Kinvarra 201, 212 restaurants 338 Lefroy family 240 Kilkenny, County 125 festivals 49 see also Southeast Ireland restaurants 338 Legananny Dolmen 32, 284 Kilkenny, Statutes of (1366) 37 **KLM 383** Legends 26-7 Knappogue Castle 189 Leighlinbridge Kilkenny Arts Week 49, 361 Kilkenny Castle 123, 144 Knights of Glin 184 pubs 347 Knights Templar 148 restaurants 330 Street-by-Street map 143 Leinster, Duke of 65 Kilkenny Design Centre 143, 355 Knightstown 164 Leinster Aqueduct 128 Knitwear shops 354, 355 Kilkenny Shop (Dublin) 107 Knobs and Knockers (Dublin) Leinster House (Dublin) 65 Kilkieran 199 Street-by-Street map 59 Killahoey Strand 225 107 Knock 201, 205 Leitrim, County 229 Killala pubs 349 Knock International Airport 383 see also Northwest Ireland Killaloe 185, 190 Lennox, Lady Louisa 130, 131 Lennox, Tom 130 Knocknarea 234 pubs 349 Knockranny Leonard, Hugh 88 hotels 311 restaurants 336 Killarney 153, 159 Knowth 244, 245, 246 Leopardstown Races 51, 366 Koralek, Paul 63 Leprechauns 26 hotels 305 Letterfrack Lakes of Killarney 122, 162-3 Kylemore Abbey 208 hotels 311 pubs 348 Kyteler, Dame Alice 143 restaurants 338 restaurants 333 Letterkenny 227 Ring of Kerry tour 165 Lacy, Hugh de 248 hotels 313 Killarney Riding Stables 367 restaurants 340 "Lady Betty" 218 Killiney 103 Lagan Weir Lookout (Belfast) Letterkenny Folk Festival 49 hotels 297 Lever Brothers 74 279 Killorglin festivals 49 Lahinch Libraries hotels 308 Chester Beatty Library and pubs 348 restaurants 336 Gallery of Oriental Art restaurants 333 (Dublin) 7 Lahinch Golf Club 366 Ring of Kerry tour 165 Lakeland Canoe Centre Linen Hall Library (Belfast) Killruddery House and Gardens (Enniskillen) 367 277 133 Marsh's Library (Dublin) 83 Killybegs 229 Lakes Kilmacanogue, restaurants 330 Lakes of Killarney 122, 162-3 National Library (Dublin) 59, Landscape of Ireland 18 Kilmacduagh 212 Land League 43 Old Library, Trinity College Kilmacow, restaurants 330 (Dublin) 55, 57, 63 Land War (1879-82) 43 Kilmainham Gaol (Dublin) 97 Liffey, River 92, 93 Kilmalkedar Landscape 18–19 Dingle Peninsula tour 159 Lane, Sir Hugh Poulaphouca Reservoir 133 Kilmallock Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery Lillie's Bordello (Dublin

of Modern Art (Dublin) 91

nightclub) 113

Limavady hotels 293, 319 restaurants 345 Limerick 191 history 33 hotels 308 pubs 349 Limerick (cont.) restaurants 336 River Shannon 185 siege of 181, 191 Limerick, County 181 see also Lower Shannon Limerick, Treaty of (1691) 181 Limestone pavement, The Burren 187 Linen 268 shops 354, 355 What to Buy in Ireland 357 Linen Hall Library (Belfast) 277 Lios-na-gCon Ring Fort 170 Lir, King 27 Lisdoonvarna 188 Lisdoonvarna Matchmaking Festival 50 Lismore 145 restaurants 330 Lismore Castle 145 Lissadell House 231 Yeats Country tour 232 Listings magazines, entertainments 108 Listowel hotels 305 restaurants 334 Listowel Writers' Week 361 Liszt, Franz 90 Literature 22-3 cultural holidays 361 Literary Pub Crawl (Dublin) Little Skellig 165 Livingstone, Dr David 68 Locke, Josef 24 Locke's Distillery (Kilbeggan) 249 Loftus, Adam 39 Londonderry 255, 258-9 festivals 50 hotels 319 map 258-9 personal safety 374 pubs 351 restaurants 345 siege of (1689) 39, 259 Street-by-Street map 258-9 Londonderry, County 255 see also Northern Ireland Londonderry, 3rd Marquess of 280 Londonderry family 282, 283 The Long Hall (Dublin pub) 113 Street-by-Street map 75 Longford hotels 315 pubs 351 restaurants 342 Longford, County 237 see also Midlands Loop Head

hotels 308

Loop Head Drive 184 Lost property 375 Lough Eske hotels 313 Lough Key Forest Park 219 Lough Melvin Holiday Centre Lough Navar Forest Drive Lower Lough Erne tour 270 Lough Ree Trail 249 Louis Copeland (Dublin) 107 Louis Mulcahy's Pottery (Tralee) 355 Louisburgh 206 Louth, County 237 see also Midlands Lower Lough Erne tour 270-1 Lower Shannon 181-99 hotels 306-9 map 182-3 pubs 348-9 restaurants 335-6 Luas (Dublin) 393 Lughnasa Fair (Carrickfergus Castle) 49 Lynch family 210 Lyric Theatre (Belfast) 361 М Maam Cross pubs 350 Mac Liammóir, Mícheál 90 McAleese, Mary 16, 47 McBride, Major John 44 McCambridge's (Galway) 355 McCarthy, Dermot 171 McCormack, John 24 Moore Abbey 128 St Mary's Pro-Cathedral 89 McCullough Piggott (Dublin) McDaid's (Dublin) 113 Dublin's Best: Entertainment 115 MacDonnell, Sorley Boy 266 MacDonnell clan 261, 267 McDonough, Thomas 44 MacDuagh, St Colman 212 MacDyer, Father James 228-9 McGeehan Coaches 393 McGuigan, Barry 47 Mack, Robert 78 Maclise, Daniel 36 McLoughlin's Books (Westport) 355 McMurrough, Art, King of Leinster 37 McMurrough, Dermot, King of Leinster 35, 36 MacNamara clan 189 MacNeice, Louis 23 Macroom 171 MacReddin hotels 301 MacSweeney family 225 Maeve, Queen of Connaught and Cúchulainn 26 Knocknarea 234 Magazines 108, 373

Magee and Co (Donegal) 355 Maghery Bay 228

Magini, Professor Dennis J. 90

Magilligan Point 260

Magilligan Strand 260

Mahon, Major Denis 219 Mahon, Derek 23 Mahon, Thomas 218 Mail services 379 La Maison des Gourmets (Dublin) 107 Malachy, St 245 Malahide restaurants 328 Malahide Castle 102 Malin Head Inishowen Peninsula tour 227 Malinbeg 229 Mallow 177 hotels 306 restaurants 334 Malone, Molly statue of 58, 60 Mamore, Gap of see Gap of Mamore Mansion House (Dublin) 61 Street-by-Street map 58 Mantegna, Andrea, Judith with the Head of Holofernes 71 Aran Islands 214-15 Belfast 276-7 The Burren 188 Connemara 207 Cork 174-5 Cork and Kerry 154-5 Dingle Peninsula tour 158-9 Dublin 54-5 Dublin: Around O'Connell Street 86-7 Dublin: Central Dublin 95 Dublin: Greater Dublin 13, 95 Dublin: North of the Liffey 85 Dublin: Outer Dublin Transport Network 390 Dublin: Southeast Dublin 57. 58-9 Dublin: Southwest Dublin 73, Dublin: Street Finder 116-19 Dublin's Best: Entertainment 114-15 Europe 12 Galway 211 Inishowen Peninsula tour 226 - 7Ireland 12-13 Ireland at a Glance 122-3 Ireland's Best: Hotels 292-3 Kilkenny 142-3 Kinsale 172-3 Londonderry 258-9 Lower Lough Erne tour 270-1 Lower Shannon 182-3 Midlands 238-9 Military Road tour 138 Mourne Coast tour 285 North Antrim coastline 261 Northern Ireland 256-Northwest Ireland 222-3 Phoenix Park (Dublin) 96 prehistoric Ireland 32 rail network 391 Ring of Kerry tour 164-5 road maps 387

Shannon, River 185

Southeast Ireland 126-7

Maps (cont.) Millstreet Indoor International Waterford 147 showiumping event 29 Milltown, Joseph Leeson, Earl of West of Ireland 202-3 Yeats Country tour 232-3 Marble Arch Caves 273 Minot, Archbishop 82 Marconi, Guglielmo 207, 266 Miró, Joan 175 Mitchelstown Marie Antoinette, Oueen of restaurants 334 France 169 Marino Casino (Dublin) 40-1, Mizen Head 167 100 Moate The Market Bar (Dublin) 113 hotels 315 Markets in Dublin 86, 105, 107 Model Arts & Niland Gallery Markievicz, Count Casimir 231 (Sligo) 234 Markievicz, Countess Constance Moher, Cliffs of see Cliffs of Easter Rising 61 Moher elected first woman MP 44 Mohill hotels 313 Lissadell House 231 Marsh, Archbishop Narcissus 83 Molaise, St 271 Marsh's Library (Dublin) 83 Moll's Gap 159 Martello towers restaurants 334 Ring of Kerry tour 165 Cleggan 207 Dalkey Island 103 Molly Malone (Rynhart) 58, 60 Drogheda 244 Monaghan 237, 240 Howth Head 95 restaurants 342 James Joyce Tower 103 Monaghan, County 237, 255 Magilligan Point 260 see also Midlands Martin, Misses 276 Monasterboice 242, 243 Mary I, Queen of England 38 Monasterevin 128 Mary II, Queen of England 244 Monasteries 34-5 Mary from Dungloe Ardmore 145 International Festival 49 Clonmacnoise 31, 35, 237, Mask, Lough 209 250 - 1Mason, James 90 Devenish Island 271 Dysert O'Dea 181, 189 Matcham, Frank 276 Mathew, Father Theobald Glendalough 31, 34-5, 140-1 statues of 89, 176 Holy Island 190 temperance crusade 42 Kells 241 Matisse, Henri 103 Kilmacduagh 212 Mellifont 35 Mattock, River 245 Maynooth Monasterboice 242, 243 hotels 301 St Cronan's Monastery 195 Mayo, County 201 see also Abbeys and priories see also West of Ireland Monea Castle Meath, County 237 Lower Lough Erne tour 271 see also Midlands Monet, Claude 70, 91 Money 376-7 Meath, Earls of 133 Medical treatment 375 transferring 379 The Meeting of St Brendan and Monkstown the Unhappy Judas (Clarke) restaurants 334 Monument of Light (Dublin) 89 Meeting of the Waters 139, 162 Street-by-Street map 86 Mellifont Abbey 35, 245 Monuments Mellon, Judge Thomas 269 Alcock and Brown 207 Merrion Square (Dublin) 68 Daniel O'Connell 87 O'Scully (Rock of Cashel) 197 Metrication 373 The Mezz (Dublin) 112 Parnell 86, 89 Michael Gibbons' Walking Strongbow 80 Ireland Centre (Clifden) 366 Wolf Tone 61 Moore, Brian 23 Michael Kennedy Ceramics Moore, Henry 60 (Gort) 355 Reclining Connected Forms 62 Midlands 237-53 Moore, Thomas 139 hotels 314-16 map 238-9 Moore Abbey (Monasterevin) 128 pubs 350-51 Moore Street Market (Dublin) 227 The Raised Bogs of the Street-by-Street map 86 Midlands 252 The Morgan Bar (Dublin) 113 restaurants 341-2 Morris, Abraham 17 Morrison, Van 24, 115, 276 Midleton hotels 306 Mosse, Dr Bartholomew 90

Mother Redcap's Tavern

(Dublin) 112

Motorcycle racing 28

Motte and bailey 21

Mike's Fishing Tackle (Dun

Military Road tour 138

Laoghaire) 366

Military Road 139

Mound of Down 281 Mount Juliet Estate (Thomastown) 366, 367 Mount Stewart House 123, 255, 280, **282-3** Mount Usher Gardens 139 Mountaineering Council of Ireland 366 Mountains mountaineering 363, 366 wildlife 19 Mountains of Mourne 255, 257, Mountjoy, Lord 177 Mountnugent hotels 315 Mountrath hotels 293, 316 Mountshannon 190 Mourne, Mountains of see Mountains of Mourne Mourne Coast tour 285 Mourne Wall 284 Moycullen restaurants 338 MTB Commission of Cycling Ireland 366 Muckross Abbey 162 Muckross House (Killarney) 159, 162 Muiredach's Cross (Monasterboice) 242, 243 Mulcahy, Louis 158 Mullaghmore 188 Mulligan Records (Galway) 355 Mulligan's (Dublin pub) 113 Mullingar 248-9 hotels 316 restaurants 342 Mulrany hotels 311 Multvfarnham hotels 316 Munster 181 Murlough Bay 266, 267 Murrays/Europear 389 Museums and galleries admission charges 370 Armagh County Museum 274 Avondale House 141 Beit Art Collection (Russborough House) 132 Brian Ború Heritage Centre (Killaloe) 190 Bunratty Folk Park 193 Burren Centre 188 Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art (Dublin) 77 Colmcille Heritage Centre 225 County Museum (Dundalk) County Museum (Letterkenny) County Museum (Monaghan) Crawford Municipal Art Gallery (Cork) 174-5 Dan O'Hara's Homestead

(Clifden) 207

Dixon Gallery (Tory Island)

Donegal Historical Society

Museums and galleries (cont.) Museum (Rossnowlagh) 230-1 Down County Museum (Downpatrick) 281 Dublin Civic Museum (Dublin) 75 Dublin Writers Museum (Dublin) 91 Dublinia (Dublin) 74, 79 Earhart Museum (Londonderry) 259 Famine Museum (Strokestown Park House) 219 Fermanagh County Museum (Enniskillen) 272 Flame (Carrickfergus) 275 Folk Village Museum (Glencolumbkille) 228-9 Foynes Flying Boat Museum 184 Glebe House and Gallery 225 Granuaile Centre (Louisburgh) 206 Guinness Storehouse (Dublin) Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art (Dublin) 91 Hunt Museum (Limerick) 191 Irish Agriculture Museum (Johnstown Castle) 151 Irish Museum of Modern Art -Royal Hospital Kilmainham (Dublin) 97 Irish National Heritage Park 150 James Joyce Cultural Centre (Dublin) 86, 90 James Joyce Tower (Sandycove) 103 Kerry County Museum (Tralee) 156, 157 Kilmainham Gaol (Dublin) 97 King John's Castle (Limerick) 191 Knock Folk Museum 205 Limerick Museum 191 Locke's Distillery (Kilbeggan) 249 Lough Neagh Discovery Centre 274, 275 Maritime Museum (Kilmore Quay) 151 Millmount Museum (Drogheda) 244 Model Arts & Niland Gallery (Sligo) 234 National Gallery (Dublin) 55, National Museum (Archaeology and History) (Dublin) 55, 59, 66-7 National Museum at Collins Barracks (Dublin) 101 Natural History Museum (Dublin) 68 Navan Centre (Armagh) 274 Old Jameson's Distillery (Dublin) 92 Old Midleton Distillery 179 The Queenstown Story (Cobh) 178 Royal Hibernian Academy (Dublin) 68

Museums and galleries (cont.) St Patrick's Trian (Armagh) 274 Shaw's Birthplace (Dublin) 100 Skellig Experience Centre 164 Sligo Art Gallery 234 Sligo County Museum 234 Tower Museum (Londonderry) 258, 259 Ulster-American Folk Park 269 Ulster Folk and Transport Museum 280 Ulster History Park 269 Ulster Museum (Belfast) 278 W5 (Belfast) 279 Water Wheels (Assaroe Abbey) 231 Waterford Museum of Treasures 146 Waterways Visitors' Centre (Dublin) 101 West Cork Regional Museum (Clonakilty) 170 Music 24-5 classical music, opera and dance 109, 112, 359, 361 cultural holidays 361 Dublin shops 106, 107 festivals 48-51 rock, jazz, blues and country 109, 112, 359, 361 shops 352-3, 355 traditional 24-5, 109, 112, **359**, 361 Music in Great Irish Houses 49, 361 Mussenden, Frideswide 260 Mussenden Temple 260 Myths 26-7 N Na Seacht dTeampaill 214 Napoleon I, Emperor 103 Nash, John 198, 219 National Association of Regional Game Councils 367 National Botanic Gardens (Dublin) 100 National Car Rental 389 National Concert Hall (Dublin) 112 Dublin's Best: Entertainment 115 National Country Fair (Birr Castle) 48 National Countrysports Fair (Lisburn) 367 National Express 385 National Gallery (Dublin) 55, National Library (Dublin) 65 Street-by-Street map 59 National Museum (Archaeology and History) (Dublin) 55, 66-7 Street-by-Street map 59 National Museum at Collins Barracks (Dublin) 101 National parks Connemara 122, 208 Glenveagh 224, 225 National Stud 129 National Trust 361, 371 Crown Liquor Saloon (Belfast)

National Trust (cont.) Mount Stewart House 282-3 Mussenden Temple 260 Portstewart Strand 260 Wellbrook Beetling Mill 268 Natural History Museum (Dublin) 68 restaurants 342 Navan Fort (Armagh) 274 Neagh, Lough 274-5 Neary's (Dublin bar) 113 Nenagh, hotels 308 Neptune Gallery (Dublin) 107 New Ross 148-9 pubs 347 New Year's Day 51 New York, Irish immigrants 43 Newcastle 284 hotels 319 Mourne Coast tour 285 Newgrange 32, 33, 237, 244, 246-7 Newman, John Henry 61 Newman House (Dublin) 61 Newmarket-on-Fergus hotels 308-309 restaurants 336 Newport hotels 311 Newspapers 373 Newton, Lord 61 Newtownards 280 hotels 319 Nicholas Mosse Pottery (Bennettsbridge) 355 Nightclubs, Dublin 110-11, 113 Nobel Prizes 22, 45, 46, 47 Nore, River 144 Normans see Anglo-Normans Norse Merchant Ferries 385 North Antrim coastline 261, 263 North Mayo Sculpture Trail 204 North West 200 (motorcycle race) 28 Northern Ireland 255-85 air travel to 383 Anglo-Irish Treaty (1921) 44 banks 378 buses 392, 393 coach tours 393 currency 376 history 31 hotels 316-19 map 256-7 personal safety 374 pubs 351 restaurants 342-5 security roadblocks 389 taxis 393 telephones 381 terrorism 374 trains 390 Troubles 31, 46, 47 Northern Ireland Assembly 15, 16, 46 Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association 46 Northern Ireland Railways 391 Northern Ireland Tourist Board 371 Northwest Ireland 229-35 hotels 312-14

(Dublin) 107

One Man's Pass 229

Northwest Ireland (cont.) O'Neill, Brian 36 Parks and gardens (cont.) map 222-3 O'Neill family 221 Birr Castle Demesne 253 pubs 350-1 Dungannon 273 Botanic Gardens (Belfast) 278 restaurants 339-41 Grianán Ailigh 227 Butterstream Gardens (Trim) and Protestant conquest 38, 255 Castlewellan Forest Park 284 O'Brien, Edna 23 Opening times 371 Coole Park 213 O'Brien, Flann 23 banks 378 Fota House and Gardens 178 O'Brien, Murtagh, King of shops 352 Garden of Remembrance Munster 227 Opera 49, 359, 361 (Dublin) 91 Dublin 109, 112 O'Brien family 189, 192 Garinish Island 166-7 O'Brien's Tower (Cliffs of Japanese Gardens (Kildare) 129 Waterford Festival of Light Moher) 184 Opera 50, 361 John F Kennedy Park and O'Carolan, Turlough 24 Wexford Opera Festival 50, 361 Arboretum (New Ross) 149 death 40 Opera House (Cork) 361 Johnstown Castle 151 Clonalis House 218 Orange Order (Orangemen) 41, Killruddery Gardens 133 memorial 83 Lismore Castle 145 O'Carolan Harp and Traditional Organic Centre 223, 235 Lough Rynn Estate 235 Music Festival (Keadue) 49 Original Print Gallery (Dublin) Merrion Square (Dublin) 68 O'Casey, Sean 22 Mount Stewart House 282-3 Abbey Theatre (Dublin) 87, 88 Ormond Castle (Carrick-on-Suir) Mount Usher Gardens 139 Gate Theatre (Dublin) 114 199 National Botanic Gardens O'Connell, Daniel Ormonde, Black Tom Butler, (Dublin) 100 Catholic emancipation 42 10th Earl of 199 Phoenix Park (Dublin) 96 Derrynane House 164 Ormonde, Earls of 83, 96, 145 Powerscourt 134-5 grave 100 Ormonde, 2nd Marquess of St Fiachra's Gardens (Kildare) Hill of Tara 248 tomb of 144 O'Rourke family 233 Merrion Square (Dublin) 68 St Stephen's Green (Dublin) monuments to 87, 89, 189 58, 60-1 O'Scully family 197 Tully Castle 270 National Library (Dublin) 65 Ossian's Grave 33, 267 O'Connell Street (Dublin) 55, O'Toole, St Laurence, Parliament 65 Archbishop of Dublin 81, 89 Bank of Ireland building Street-by-Street map 86-7 O'Toole family 139 (Dublin) 60 O'Connell's Late Night Oudry, Jean Baptiste 132 history 36, 44 Pharmacy (Dublin) 375 Oughter, Lough 18 Leinster House (Dublin) 65 O'Connor, Sinéad 24 Oughterard 209 Parnell, Charles Stewart 43 O'Connor clan 156 hotels 311-12 Avondale House 141 O'Conor, Felim, King of restaurants 338 grave 100 Connaught 218 Oul' Lammas Fair (Ballycastle) 49 Home Rule campaign 42, 43 O'Conor, Hugh, King of Owengarriff River 162 imprisonment 43, 97 Connaught 218 Parnell Monument (Dublin) O'Conor, Turlough, King of 86, 89 Connaught 209 P&O Irish Sea 385 Parsons family 253 Octoberfest (Londonderry) 50 Pain, J and GR 177 Partition (1921) 221 O'Donnell family 221, 230 Paisley, Reverend Ian 46 Passage East 147 Pakenham family 241 O'Donnell's (Limerick) 355 Passage graves O'Donoghue's (Dublin) 112 The Pale 36, 132, 237 Carrowkeel Passage Tomb Palestrina Choir 89 Cemetery 223, 235 O'Faolain, Seán 23 Palladian architecture 41 Carrowmore Megalithic Offaly, County 237 Castletown House 130 Cemetery 234 see also Midlands O'Flaherty, Donal 209 Florence Court 273 Dowth 244, 245 Marino Casino 40, 100 Hill of Tara 248 O'Flaherty clan 209 Ó Floin, Liam 24 Powerscourt 134 Knowth 244, 245 Ogham Stones 34, 190 Russborough House 132-3 Newgrange 244, 246-7 Oideas Gael (Gleanncholmcille) Strokestown Park House Passports 372 361 218 - 19Patrick, St 17, 242, 255, 281 Oisin Gallery (Dublin) 107 Palladius 34 Armagh 274 Old Bushmills Distillery 266 Pan Celtic Festival 48 Croagh Patrick 205 Pantomime season 51 Downpatrick 281 Old Jameson's Distillery Papal Cross, Phoenix Park Grianán Ailigh 227 (Dublin) 92 (Dublin) 96 Hill of Slane 245 What to Buy in Ireland 357 Hill of Tara 248 Old Midleton Distillery 179 Papworth, George 83 Park, Bishop Lucey 176 Lough Derg 230 Oldcastle hotels 316 Parke, Captain Robert 233 mission to Ireland 31, 34, 255, Olympia Theatre (Dublin) 112 Parke's Castle 233 Omagh Yeats Country tour 233 Rock of Cashel 196 St Patrick's Bell 67 hotels 319 Parking 389 pubs 351 Parknasilla St Patrick's Cathedral (Dublin) restaurants 345 hotels 306 82 O'Malley, Grace 206, 209 Parks and gardens St Patrick's Cross (Cashel) 196 Slieve Patrick 281 Oman Antique Galleries cultural holidays 361

Avondale Forest Park 141

Bantry House 168-9

Pavarotti, Luciano 115 Payne-Townsend, Charlotte 100 Portrush 260

Peacock, Joseph, The Feast of St
Kevin amid the Ruins of
Glendalough 31
Pearce, Edward Lovett 60
Pearse, Patrick 44 Catholic University of Ireland
61
Easter Rising 89
Peatland <i>see</i> Bogs Peatlands Park 274, 275
Pedroza, Eusebio 47
Pembroke, William Marshall, Earl of 148
Penn, Sir William 171
Penrose, George and William 147
People's Garden, Phoenix Park (Dublin) 96
Perfume, duty-free allowances
372
Personal security 374–5 Peter's Pub (Dublin) 113
Peto, Harold 166
Petrie, George, Last Circuit of Pilgrims at Clonmacnoise 250
Petrol 387
Petty, William 166
Pharmacies 375 Phoenix Column (Dublin) 96
Phoenix Park (Dublin) 96
map 96
Phones 380–1 Picasso, Pablo 225
Picasso, Pablo 225 Picnics 321
Pierrot (Gris) 70
Pillar stones 243 The Pink Room (Carlingford) 355
Place names 27
Planet Cyber (Dublin) 381 Plantation 38, <b>39</b>
Play at the Gaiety (Dublin
nightclub) 113
PLU Bar, Renards (Dublin nightclub) 113
Plunkett, Joseph 45, 97
Plunkett, Oliver 244 POD (Dublin nightclub) 113
Point Theatre (Dublin) 112
Dublin's Best: Entertainment
115 Police 374, 375
Political murals, West Belfast 278
Pomodoro, Arnaldo, Sphere within Sphere 59, 63
Pontoon
hotels 312
Pony trekking <b>364</b> , 367 Portadown
hotels 319
pubs 351 Portaformy 380
Portaferry 280 hotels 319
restaurants 345
Portarlington, Earl of 253 Portballintrae
restaurants 345
Portlaoise
hotels 316 pubs 351
restaurants 342
Portmarnock (County Dublin) hotels 298
Portmarnock Golf Club 366
Portora Royal School 272

hotels 319 restaurants 345 Portsalon 225 Portstewart 256, 260 restaurants 345 Portumna 185, 213 restaurants 339 Portumna Castle 213 Portumna Forest Park 213 Portumna Priory 213 Postal services 379 Poulaphouca Reservoir 133 Poulnabrone Dolmen 188 Powerscourt 123, 134-5 Powerscourt, Richard Wingfield, 1st Viscount 78, 134 Powerscourt, 7th Viscount 134 Powerscourt Centre (Dublin) 107 Powerscourt Townhouse (Dublin) 78 Street-by-Street map 75 Powerscourt Waterfall Military Road tour 138 Poynings, Edward 37 Prehistoric Ireland 32-3 interpretative centres 371 Beaghmore Stone Circles 268 Boyne Valley 244-5 Browne's Hill 141 Cahermore Stone Fort 188 Carrowkeel Passage Tomb Cemetery 223, 235 Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery 234 Cave Hill (Belfast) 279 Céide Fields 204 Clare Island 206 Connemara National Park 208 Craggaunowen 190 Drombeg Stone Circle 170 Dún Aonghasa 214 Dún Duchathair 215 Dún Eochla 215 Giant's Ring (Belfast) 279 Gleninsheen Wedge Tomb 188 Great Stone Circle (Lough Gur) 194-5 Grianán Ailigh 227 Hill of Tara 248 Knocknarea 234 Legananny Dolmen 284 Lough Gur 194-5 Navan Fort (Armagh) 274 Newgrange 244-5, 246-7 Ossian's Grave 267 Poulnabrone Dolmen 188 Turoe Stone 218 Premier Cycling Holidays 366 Priories see Abbeys and priories Professional Golf Association 366 Project Art Centre (Dublin) 78, Protestants Battle of the Boyne 244 Protestant Ascendancy 40-1 Protestant conquest 38-9 Ptolemy 33 Public holidays 51 Pubs 346-51 Cork and Kerry 347-8 Dublin 110, 112-13

Pubs (cont.)
Literary Pub Crawl (Dublin)
110
Lower Shannon 348–9
Northern Ireland 351
Northwest Ireland 350–1
pub food 321
Southeast Ireland 346–7
West of Ireland 349–50
Puck Fair (Killorglin) 49
Pugin, AWN 149
Punchestown 28, 366
Purple Moon (Dublin) 107
Puxley Mansion 166

### Q Antiques (Dublin) 107 Qantas 383 Queen's University (Belfast) 278 The Queenstown Story (Cobh) 178 Quills Woollen Market (Killarney) 355 Quin Franciscan Friary 189

## R

Racing horse 28, 129, 362, 366 motorcycle 28 Radio 373 Railways see Trains Rainfall 50 Raleigh, Sir Walter 179 Raleigh Rent-a-Bike (Dublin) 366, 389 Ramsay, Allan 168 Rathlannon Castle 151 Rathlin Island 266 Rathmelton 225 Rathmines (Dublin) hotels 297 Rathmullan restaurants 340 Rathnew hotels 293, 301 Raven Point 150 Recess hotels 312 Reclining Connected Forms (Moore) 62 Ree, Lough 185 Religion Celtic Christianity 34-5 religious services 371

Celtic Christianity 34–5 religious services 371 see also Abbeys and priories; Cathedrals; Churches in Dublin; Monasteries Renoir, Pierre Auguste 225 Rent an Irish Cottage 291 Renting cars 387, 389

Restaurants **320–45**budget dining 321
Cork and Kerry 331–4
Dublin 324–8
fish and chips and other fast foods 321

cycles 389

gourmet and ethnic dining 320-1 Irish eating patterns 320 Lower Shannon 335-6 Midlands 341-2

Rouault, Georges 175

Round-Ireland Yacht Race 28

Restaurants (cont.) Round towers 20, 21 Saltee Islands 151 Northern Ireland 342-5 Roundstone 207 Salthill 211 Northwest Ireland 339-41 Sandel, Mount 32 hotels 312 pub food 321 restaurants 339 Sands, Bobbie 47 Southeast Ireland 328-31 Roundwood Sandycove 103 West of Ireland 337-9 Military Road tour 138 Santry Demesne (Dublin) see also Food and drink restaurants 330 hotels 298 Revelations Internet Café Saul 255, 281 Roundwood House 293 (Belfast) 381 Royal Automobile Club 389 Sayers, Peig 22 Ri-Ra (Dublin nightclub) 113 Royal Canal 42, 101, 248-9 Scattery Island 184 Riasc Royal College of Surgeons Schomberg, General 275 Dingle Peninsula tour 158 (Dublin) 60, 61 Schull 167 Richard II, King of England 37 Royal County Down Golf Club hotels 306 Ring forts 20 (Newcastle) 367 Scilly Ring of Kerry 159 pubs 348 Royal Dublin Society (RDS) 40, Ring of Kerry tour 164-5 65, 112 Scrabo Country Park 280 Rivers 18 Royal Hibernian Academy Scrabo Tower 280 Riverstown (Dublin) 68 Screen (Dublin cinema) 113 hotels 313 Royal Hospital Kilmainham Sculpture Road signs 388 (Dublin) 97, 112 High Crosses 243 Roads 387-9 Royal Portrush Golf Club 367 North Mayo Sculpture Trail 204 Roberts, John 146 Royal Tara China (Mervue) 355 Scurlogstown Olympiad Celtic Robertstown 128 Royal Ulster Agriculture Society Festival 49 Robinson, Mary 16, 47 Show (Belfast) 48 SDLP 15 Robinson, Sir William Roval Victoria Hospital 375 Sea travel 384-6 Dublin Castle 76 Rugby 28, 51 SeaCat 385 Rules of the road 388 Irish Museum of Modern Art -Seanad Éireann 65 Royal Hospital Kilmainham Rush (Dublin bar) 113 Security roadblocks 389 Russborough House 41, 125, (Dublin) 97 Selectah Records (Dublin) 107 Marsh's Library (Dublin) 83 132 - 3Self-catering accommodation 290 Roche, Steven 47 Milltown collection 70 Selskar Abbey 150 Roches Stores (Dublin) 107 stucco 21 Semple Stadium (Thurles) 361 Ryanair 383 Rock of Cashel 27, 122, 181, Severin, Tim 190 195, **196-7** Rynhart, Jean, Molly Malone 58, Shaftesbury, Earl of 279 Rock of Dunamase 253 Shaikh, Ahmad 77 Rock music 109, 112, **359**, 361 Rodin, Auguste 91 Shanagarry restaurants 334 Shannon Romans 33 Sadler, William II, The Relief of Ron Black's (Dublin bar) 113 Derry 39 hotels 309 Roscahill Safety 374 Shannon, River 185 hotels 312 Sailing 365, 367 Lower Shannon 181 Roscommon 218 St Anne's Cathedral (Belfast) Shannon-Erne Waterway 235 276-7 hotels 312 Shannon Airport 383 restaurants 339 St Ann's Church (Dublin) 61 Shannon Castle Line 367 Roscommon, County 201 Street-by-Street map 58 Shannon Ceilí 361 see also West of Ireland Shannon-Erne Waterways 367 St Ann's Shandon (Cork) 174 Roscommon Castle 218 St Audoen's Church (Dublin) 79 Shannonbridge Bog Railway Roscrea 195 St Canice's Cathedral (Kilkenny) Roscrea Castle 195 Share Village (Lisnaskea) 367 Rose of Tralee Festival 49 St Ernan's House 292 Shaw, George Bernard 22, 114 Rosguill Peninsula 225 St Fiachra's Gardens (Kildare) Coole Park 213 Ross Castle 162 129 Glengarriff 167 Rosse, 2nd Earl of 253 St Finbarr's Cathedral (Cork) 175 National Gallery (Dublin) 70 Rosse, 3rd Earl of 253 St John's Point 284 National Library (Dublin) 65 Rosse, 6th Earl of 253 St Mary's Abbey (Dublin) 93 Nobel Prize 45 The Rosses 228 St Mary's Pro-Cathedral (Dublin) Shaw's Birthplace (Dublin) Rosses Point hotels 314 Sheares, Henry and John 92 Street-by-Street map 87 St Michan's Church (Dublin) 92 Sheen, River 166 restaurants 340 St Patrick's Cathedral (Dublin) Yeats Country tour 232 Sheep Island 261 Rosslare 125, 151 Shelbourne Hotel (Dublin) 61 54, **82–3** ferries 384, 385 St Patrick's Day 48, 51 Street-by-Street map 59 hotels 301 St Stephen's Day 51 Shelbourne Park (Dublin) 366 St Stephen's Green (Dublin) Rossnowlagh 230-1 Sheridan, Richard Brinsley 22 hotels 314 60-1 Sheridan's Cheese Mongers Street-by-Street map 58 (Dublin) 107 pubs 350 Rostrevor St Werburgh's Church (Dublin) Sherkin Island 170 Mourne Coast tour 285 Street-by-Street map 74 pubs 348 Rothe House (Kilkenny) 142 Sales tax and refunds 352 Shooting 365, 367 Shopping 352-7 Rotunda Hospital (Dublin) 40, 90 Saller's Jewellers (Galway) 355 Street-by-Street map 86 Sally Gap antiques 106, 107

Military Road tour 138

Salmon and Sea Trout Season 51

books 106, 107, 352, 355

ceramics and china 353, 355

Shopping (cont.)	Sligo, County 229	Stone Circles (cont.)
crafts <b>353</b> , 355	see also Northwest Ireland	Giant's Ring (Belfast) 279
crystal and glassware <b>353</b> , 355	Sligo Abbey 234	Great Stone Circle (Lough
department stores <b>104</b> , 107	Sligo Art Gallery 234	Gur) 194–5
Dublin <b>104–7</b>	Sligo County Museum 234	Stormont (Belfast) 279
fashion <b>106</b> , 107, <b>354</b> , 355	Sligo Crystal (Sligo) 355	Stradbally Steam-engine Rally 49
food and drink 105, 107, 353,	Sligo International Choral	Straffan
355	Festival 50	hotels 301
galleries 106, 107	Smithfield (Dublin) 92	Strangford
how to pay 352	Smyth, Edward	restaurants 345
jewellery <b>354</b> , 355	Chapel Royal (Dublin Castle)	Stranorlar
knitwear and tweed 354, 355	76	hotels 314
linen <b>354</b> , 355	Custom House sculptures 87,	Street, George 80 Streeve Hill 293
markets <b>105</b> , 107	88 King's Inns (Dublin) 92	Strokestown Park House 201,
music <b>106</b> , 107, <b>352–3</b> , 355	Smyth's Irish Linen (Belfast) 355	218–19
opening hours 352 sales tax and refunds 352	Sneem	Strongbow (Richard de Clare)
shopping centres <b>104–5</b> , 107	hotels 306	invasion of Ireland 36, 79, 275
souvenirs and gifts 105, 107	Ring of Kerry tour 165	marriage 36
What to Buy in Ireland 356-7	South Sligo Summer School of	monument 80
when to shop 104	Traditional Music, Song and	Struell Wells 281
where to shop 104, 352	Dance (Tubbercurry) 361	Stuart, James "Athenian" 282
Siamsa Tíre National Folk	Southeast Ireland 125–51	Stubbs, George, Hambletonian
Theatre 156–7, 361	Castletown House 130–1	283 Studen 21
The Sick Call (Lawless) 71	hotels 299–302	Stucco 21 Student information 372
Silent Valley 284 Mourne Coast tour 285	map 126–7 Powerscourt <b>134–5</b>	Studio Donegal (Kilcar) 355
Silver Line Cruisers (Banagher)	pubs 346–7	The Sugar Club (Dublin) 112
367	restaurants 328–31	Suir, River 146, 198, 199
The Silver Shop (Dublin) 107	Waterford 146–7	Summer in Ireland 48–9
Simnel, Lambert 37, 81	Souvenir shops, Dublin 105, 107	Sunlight Chambers (Dublin)
Sinn Féin	Spanish Armada see Armada,	Street-by-Street map 74
cease fire (1994) 47 Custom House fire (Dublin) 88	Spanish Spectator sports <b>362</b> , 366	Sunshine 49 Swansea Cork Ferries 385
history 44	Speed limits 388	Swift, Jonathan 22, 40, 82
Sitric Silkenbeard 35, 80	Spelga Dam	Gulliver's Travels 274
Six Nations Rugby Tournament	Mourne Coast tour 285	Marsh's Library (Dublin) 83
28, 51	Sperrin Mountains 268, 269	memorials 54, 83
Skellig Experience Centre 164	Sphere within Sphere	Trinity College (Dublin) 57
Skellig Michael 153, 164–5	(Pomodoro) 59, 63	Swilly, River 227
The Skelligs <b>164–5</b> Skerries (Dublin)	Spiddal hotels 312	Swiss Cottage (Cahir) 198–9 Synge, John Millington 22–3
hotels 298	Spielberg, Steven 23	Abbey Theatre (Dublin) 87, 88
Skibbereen 167	Spillane Seafoods (Killarney) 355	Coole Park 213
hotels 306	Spirit (Dublin nightclub) 113	-
Skibbereen Historical Walks 366	Sports <b>362–7</b>	T
Sky Road 207	sporting year 28–9	Taibhdhearc Theatre (Galway)
Slade 148 Slade Castle 148	Spring in Ireland 48 Spy (Dublin nightclub) 113	361 Tailors' Hall (Dublin) <b>82</b>
Slane <b>245</b>	Stag's Head (Dublin pub) 113	The Taking of Christ
hotels 316	Dublin's Best: Entertainment	(Caravaggio) 71
restaurants 342	114	Talbot Castle 248
Slane, Hill of 245	Staigue Fort	Talbot family 102
Slane Castle (Dublin) 112	Ring of Kerry tour 164	Tara, Hill of 237, 248
Slaney, River 149, 150	Standuin (Spiddal) 355 Stapleton, Michael 21	"A Taste of Baltimore" Shellfish Festival 48
Slattery's Travel Agency 291 Slazenger family 134	Belvedere College (Dublin) 90	Tax, sales (VAT) 352
Slea Head	James Joyce Cultural Centre	Taxis 393
Dingle Peninsula tour 158	(Dublin) 90	Tay, Lough
Slieve Bloom Mountains 237,	Powerscourt Townhouse	Military Road tour 138
253	(Dublin) 78	Teampall Chiaráin 215
Slieve Bloom Way 253	Trinity College (Dublin) 62	Telephones 380–1
Slieve Donard 284 Slieve Foye Forest Park 242	Station Island 230 Stena Line 385	Television 373 Temperatures 51
Slieve League 229	Stephen's Green Centre	Temple Bar (Dublin) 73, <b>78</b>
Slieve Patrick 281	(Dublin) 107	entertainment 114
Slievemore 204	Stillorgan	Street-by-Street map 75
Slieverue 50	restaurants 327	Temple Bar Food Market
Sligo 234	Stoker, Bram 61	(Dublin) 107
pubs 350 restaurants 340	Stone Circles Beaghmore Stone Circles 268	Temple Bar Gallery and Studios (Dublin) 107
WB Yeats and <b>233</b> , 234	Drombeg Stone Circles 208	Temple Bar Music Centre
Yeats Country tour 232	Druid's Circle (Kenmare) 166	(Dublin) 112

Association 291

Teresa, Mother 205 Traditional Music and Dance Ulster Federation of Rambling Terrorism 374 Auld Dubliner 112 Clubs 366 see also Troubles Traffic (Dublin nightclub) 113 Ulster Folk and Transport Terryglass Trailer parks 290-1 Museum 280 restaurants 336 Trains 390-1 Ulster Hall (Belfast) 361 Textile shops 354, 355 Shannonbridge Bog Railway Ulster History Park 269 Thackeray, William Makepeace Ulster Museum (Belfast) 278 267 Trains (cont.) Ulster Peace Movement 47 Theatre 358, 361 student discounts 391 Ulster Unionist Party 15 Dublin 108, 112 through-tickets 385 Ulster Volunteer Force 44 Dublin's Best: Entertainment Tralee 156-7 Ulsterbus/Translink 385, 393 114-15 Unionist Party 44 restaurants 334 festivals 50 Tramore United Irishmen Theatre Royal (Waterford) 361 restaurants 330 attempted invasion of Ireland Theft 374 Travel 382-93 168 Thin Lizzy 24 air 382-3 Cave Hill (Belfast) 279 Thomastown buses 392-3 foundation of 27 hotels 301 cars 387-9 rebellion 40, 41 restaurants 330 Cork and Kerry 154 Tailors' Hall (Dublin) 82 Thoor Ballylee 212-13 Lower Shannon 182 United Nations (UN) 46 The Three Graces (Canova) Midlands 238 United States of America, Irish 177 Northern Ireland 256 immigration 43, 178 Thurles Northwest Ireland 223 University Church (Dublin) 61 hotels 309 sea 384-6 **USIT 373** Ticketmaster 112, 361 Southeast Ireland 127 Tickets taxis 393 air travel 383 trains 390-1 Valdré, Vincenzo 76 West of Ireland 202 Vale of Avoca 139 buses 392 for entertainments 108, 112 Travelex 379 Vale of Clara ferries 385, 386 Traveller's cheques 378-9 Military Road tour 138 Valentia Island 164 trains 385, 391 Treasure Chest (Galway) 355 Time zone 373 Trevor, William 23 hotels 306 Trim 237, 239, 248 Timoleague Abbey 170-1 Valentine, St 83 Tintern Abbey 148 Trim Castle 248 Vanhomrigh, Hester 82 Trimble, David 15 Tipperary, County 181 Vartry, River 139 see also Lower Shannon Trinity College (Dublin) 15, VAT (sales tax) 352 Tipperary Crystal (Carrick-on-62 - 3Veagh, Lough 224 Suir) 355 Book of Kells 64 Vermeer, Jan 70 Tipping, in hotels 289 history 38 Vernet, Joseph 132 Titanic 44, 178, 276 Old Library 55, 57, 63 Victoria, Queen of England Titian 70 Street-by-Street map 59 Cobh 178 Glengarriff 167 Tobercurry Troubles 31, 46, 47 Lakes of Killarney 163 restaurants 341 hotels 312 opens Dublin Exhibition 43 Tobernalt 234 Tola, St 189 Tullamore statues of 46, 276 Tollymore Forest Park hotels 316 Vikings 31 Tully Castle Mourne Coast tour 285 Donegal 230 in Dublin 79 Tombs see Passage graves Lower Lough Erne tour 270 Tone, Wolfe 277 Tullynally Castle 241 invasions of Ireland 34, 35 Cave Hill (Belfast) 279 Turner, Richard 100 Limerick 191 Turoe Stone 218 Lower Shannon 181 French Armada Centre National Museum (Dublin) 67 (Bantry House) 168 Tweed shops 354, 355 Southeast Ireland 125 marriage 61 Twelve Bens 201, 206, 208 Waterford 146 monument to 61 Wexford 150 portraits 102 Tympanum 21 rebellion 40, 41, 103 Tyrone, County 255 Wood Quay (Dublin) 74, 78 St Ann's Church (Dublin) 61 see also Northern Ireland Vinegar Hill 149 Tailors' Hall rally 82 Tyrone, Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Vintners Company 39 39, 255 Viperoom (Dublin nightclub) Torc Waterfall 162 Torr Head 267 Tyrone Crystal (Dungannon) 113 Tory Island 224 273, 355 Virgin Mary 205 Tourist information 370, 371 Visas 372 The Voodoo Lounge (Dublin) Tours by car Dingle Peninsula tour 158-9 U2 (band) 17, 24 112 Vos, Paul de 131 Inishowen Peninsula 226-7 Ufford, Robert d' 218 UGC Cinemas (Dublin) 113 Lower Lough Erne tour 270-1 w Uí Néill clan 255 Military Road 138 W5 (Belfast) 279 Mourne Coast tour 285 Ulster see Northern Ireland Walking **363**, 366 Ring of Kerry 164-5 Ulster, Richard de Burgo, Earl of Walpole, Edward 139 Yeats Country 232-3 Tower houses 20, 21 Ulster-American Folk Park 269 Waltons (Dublin) 107 Town and Country Homes War of Independence 153 Ulster Cruising School

(Carrickfergus) 367

Warbeck, Perkin 37

Whitefriar Street Carmelite

Ware, Isaac 130 Water sports 364-5, 367 Waterfalls Glencar Lough 233 Powerscourt 138 Torc 162 Waterford 125, 146-7 hotels 293, 301-302 Waterford (cont.) map 147 pubs 347 restaurants 330-31 Waterford, County 125 see also Southeast Ireland Waterford Castle 293 Waterford Crystal 147 Waterford Festival of Light Opera 50, 361 Waterfront Hall (Belfast) 361 Waterways Visitors' Centre (Dublin) 101 Waugh, Samuel 43 Wavertree, Lord 129 Wayne, John 209 Weather 49-51 The Welcome Inn (Dublin bar) 113 Wellbrook Beetling Mill (Cookstown) 268 Welles, Orson 90 Wellington, Duke of 60, 68 Wellington Testimonial, Phoenix Park (Dublin) 96 West, Robert 273 West of Ireland 201-19 hotels 309-12 map 202-3 pubs 349-50 restaurants 337-9 Westmeath, County 237 see also Midlands Westport 201, 204 hotels 312 pubs 350 restaurants 339 Westport House 204-5 Wetlands 18 Wexford 125, 150 hotels 302 pubs 347 restaurants 331 Wexford, County 125 see also Southeast Ireland Wexford Opera Festival 50, 361 Wexford Wildfowl Reserve 150 Wheelchair access see Disabled travellers Whelan's (Dublin) 112 Whiddy Island 167 Whiskey 266 Locke's Distillery (Kilbeggan) 249 Old Bushmills Distillery 266 Old Jameson's Distillery (Dublin) 92 Old Midleton Distillery 179 Whitby, Synod of (664) 34 White family (Earls of Bantry) 167, 168 White Island Lower Lough Erne tour 271 White Park Bay 261

Church (Dublin) 83 Whyte, Samuel 60 Whyte's Auction Rooms (Dublin) 107 Wicklow, County 125 see also Southeast Ireland Wicklow Mountains 19, 125, Wicklow Way 139 "Wild Geese, Flight of the", 181 Wilde, Oscar 22 The Importance of Being Oscar 90 Merrion Square (Dublin) 68 Portora Royal School 272 Wildlife 18-19 The Burren 186-7 Castle Caldwell Forest Park Connemara 208-9 Fota Wildlife Park 178-9 Peatlands Park 274, 275 Shannonbridge Bog Railway 251 see also Birds William of Orange (William III, King of England) 31 Battle of the Boyne 38, 39, 244 Carrickfergus Castle 275 Collins Barracks 101 Mellifont Abbey 245 siege of Kinsale 172 siege of Limerick 181 throne 76 William Carleton Summer School (Dungannon) 361 Williams, Betty 47 Willie Clancy Summer School (Miltown Malbay) 361 Wilton, Joseph 100 The Winding Stair (Dublin) 107 Windsor, John 93 Windsor Antiques (Dublin) 107 Wine Dublin shops 105, 107 duty-free allowances 372 Winter in Ireland 51 Women's Mini Marathon (Dublin) 48 Wood Quay (Dublin) 78 Street-by-Street map 74 Woodstock House Demesne 149 World War I 44 Wyatt, James 21 Castle Coole 272 Westport 204 Westport House 205 Yeats, Jack B Coole Park 213 Crawford Municipal Art Gallery (Cork) 175

For the Road 70

(Sligo) 234 Yeats, WB 23

Glebe House and Gallery 225

Model Arts & Niland Gallery

Abbey Theatre (Dublin) 88

Cathleen ni Houliban 15

and Constance Markievicz 231

Yeats, WB (cont.) Easter Rising 89 grave 232, 233 Irish Revival 22, 23 memorial 60 Merrion Square (Dublin) 68 Nobel Prize 45 Parke's Castle 233 and Sligo 233, 234 statue of 234 Thoor Ballylee 212-13 Yeats Country 122, 232-3 Yeats Museum (Dublin) 70 Yeats International Summer School (Sligo) 361 YHA Northern Ireland 291 Yola Farmstead Folk Park (Rosslare) 151 Youghal 179 hotels 306 restaurants 334 Young Ireland Uprising 43 Youth hostels 291

## 7

Zanzibar (Dublin nightclub) 113 Zoos Belfast Zoo 279 Fota Wildlife Park 178–9

Phoenix Park (Dublin) 96

## Acknowledgments

7Dorling Kindersley would like to thank the following people whose contributions and assistance have made the preparation of this book possible.

#### **Main Contributors**

Lisa Gerard-Sharp is a writer and broadcaster who has contributed to numerous travel books, including the Evewitness Travel Guide to France. She is of Irish extraction, with roots in County Sligo and County Galway, and a regular visitor to Ireland.

Tim Perry, from Dungannon, County Tyrone, writes on travel and popular music for various publishers in North America and the British Isles.

#### Additional Contributors

Cian Hallinan, Eoin Higgins, Douglas Palmer, Audrey Ryan, Trevor White, Roger Williams.

### Additional Photography

Peter Anderson, Joe Cornish, Andy Crawford, Michael Diggin, Steve Gorton, Anthony Haughey, Mike Linley, Ian O'Leary, Stephen Oliver, Magnus Rew, Clive Streeter, Matthew Ward.

#### Additional Illustrations

Richard Bonson, Brian Craker, John Fox, Paul Guest, Stephan Gyapay, Ian Henderson, Claire Littlejohn, Gillie Newman, Chris Orr, Kevin Robinson, John Woodcock, Martin Woodward.

#### **Additional Picture Research**

Miriam Sharland.

## **Editorial and Design**

MANAGING EDITORS Vivien Crump, Helen Partington MANAGING ART EDITOR Steve Knowlden DEPUTY EDITORIAL DIRECTOR Douglas Amrine DEPUTY ART DIRECTOR Gave Allen PRODUCTION David Proffit, Hilary Stephens PICTURE RESEARCH Sue Mennell, Christine Rista DTP DESIGNER Adam Moore MAPS Gary Bowes, Margaret Slowey, Richard

Toomey (ERA-Maptec, Dublin, Ireland) MAP CO-ORDINATORS Michael Ellis, David Pugh Marion Broderick, Margaret Chang, Martin Cropper, Guy Dimond, Fay Franklin, Yael Freudmann, Sally Ann Hibbard, Annette Jacobs, Erika Lang, Michael Osborn, Polly Phillimore, Caroline Radula-Scott.

## Relaunch - Editorial and Design

EDITORIAL Fay Franklin, Anna Freiberger, Bhaswati Ghosh, Kathryn Lane, Susan Millership, Alka Thakur, Asavari Singh FACTCHECK Des Berry

DESIGN Maite Lantaron, Baishakhee Sengupta, Shruti Singhi

PICTURE RESEARCH Ellen Root DTP Vinod Harish, Jason Little, Shailesh Sharma CARTOGRAPHY Uma Bhattacharya, Casper Morris, Kunal Singh

#### Index

Hilary Bird.

### Special Assistance

Dorling Kindersley would like to thank all the regional and local tourist offices in the Republic and Northern Ireland for their valuable help. Particular thanks also to: Ralph Doak and Egerton Shelswell-White at Bantry House, Bantry, Co Cork; Vera Greif at the Chester Beatty Library and Gallery of Oriental Art, Dublin; Alan Figgis at Christ Church Cathedral. Dublin; Labhras Ó Murchu at Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann; Catherine O'Connor at Derry City Council: Patsy O'Connell at Dublin Tourism; Tanya Cathcart at Fermanagh Tourism, Enniskillen; Peter Walsh at the Guinness Hop Store, Dublin; Gerard Collet at the Irish Shop, Covent Garden, London; Dónall P Ó Baoill at ITE, Dublin; Pat Cooke at Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin; Angela Shanahan at the Kinsale Tourist Office; Bill Maxwell, Adrian Le Harivel and Marie McFeely at the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin; Philip McCann at the National Library of Ireland, Dublin; Willy Cumming at the National Monuments Divison, Office of Public Works, Dublin; Eileen Dunne and Sharon Fogarty at the National Museum of Ireland, Dublin; Joris Minne at the Northern Ireland Tourist Office, Belfast; Dr Tom MacNeil at Queen's University, Belfast; Sheila Crowley at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin; Paul Brock at the Shannon Development Centre; Tom Sheedy at Shannon Heritage and Banquets, Bunratty Castle, Co Clare; Angela Sutherland at the Shannon-Erne Waterway, Co Leitrim; Máire Ní Bháin at Trinity College, Dublin; Anne-Marie Diffley at Trinity College Library, Dublin: Pat Maclean at the Ulster Museum, Belfast; Harry Hughes at the Willie Clancy School of Traditional Music, Miltown Malbay, Co Clare.

## **Additional Assistance**

Kathleen Crowley, Rory Doyle, Peter Hynes, David O'Grady, Mary O'Grady, Madge Perry, Poppy.

### **Photography Permissions**

The publisher would like to thank all those who gave permission to photograph at various cathedrals, churches, museums, restaurants, hotels, shops, galleries and other sights too numerous to list individually.

#### **Picture Credits**

tl = top left; tc = top centre; tr = top right; cla = centre left above; ca = centre above; cra = centre right above; cl = centre left; c = centre; cr = centre right; clb = centre left below; cb = centre below; crb = centre right below; bl = bottom left; bc = bottom centre; br = bottom right.

Every effort has been made to trace the copyright holders and we apologize in advance for any unintentional omissions. We would be pleased to insert the appropriate acknowledgments in any subsequent edition of this publication.

Works of art have been reproduced with the permission of the following copyright holders: © DACS, London 1995 70tr, 90tr.

The publisher would like to thank the following individuals, companies and picture libraries for permission to reproduce their photographs:

AER LINGUS/AIRBUS INDUSTRIE: 382tc; AKG, LONDON: National Museum, Copenhagen/Erich Lessing 26cl; ALAMY IMAGES: BL Images Ltd 10c; Robert Harding Picture Library 322cla; Barry Mason 104b; Peter Titmus 323tl; ALLSPORT: David Rogers 28cb; Steve Powell 47tl; APPLETREE PRESS LTD, BELFAST (*Irish Proverbs* © illustrations Karen Bailey) 357cl.

© Bristol City Museums and Art Gallery: 32bl; © British Library: *Richard II's Campaigns in Ireland* Ms.Harl.1319, f.18 37tl; © British Museum: 33bl; BT Payphones: 381cl, 381cr, 381b; Bus Éirieann: 392cl; © Bushmills Ltd: 266bl.

© CENTRAL BANK OF IRELAND: Lady Lavery as Cathleen ni Houliban, John Lavery 15ca, 376 (all banknotes and coins except for tr), 377; CENTRAL CYBER CAFÉ, DUBLIN: Finbarr Clarkson 380tr; © CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY, DUBLIN: 77t; © CLASSIC DESIGNS/LJ YOUNG LTD, BLARNEY: 357c; CLO IAR-CHONNACHTA: publishers of Litríocht agus Pobal by Gearóid Denvir 47cr; BRUCE COLEMAN LTD: Mark Boulton 17tr; Patrick Clement 18clb, 18bl; Adrian Davies 18br; Rodney Dawson 19cl; Frances Furlong 18tl; David Green 208bl; Pekka Helo 19cr; Jan Van de Kam 186bl; Gordon Langsbury 18cl, 186cr; John Markham 252br; George McCarthy 19tl, 19bl,19br, 138tl, 209bl; MR Phicon 18crb; Eckhart Pott 19cb; Hans Reinhard 19tcb, 162tl, 270tl; Kim Taylor 19tc, 252t; R Wanscheidt 19cbr; Uwe Walz 18cr, 185cb; G Ziesler 209bl; CORBIS: Jack Fields 323c; © CORK EXAMINER: 29tl; © CORK PUBLIC MUSEUM: 35cla; JOE CORNISH: 19cla, 212b, 270tr, 368-9; Crawford Municipal Art GALLERY: The Meeting of St Brendan and the Unhappy Judas, Harry Clarke 174bl.

Davison & Associates, Ltd, Ireland: 81cta; Derry City Council: 258tr; Michael Diggin: 20tl, 153b, 163ct, 164cla, 165tr, 185tl, 206bl, 225t, 226tr, 226cl, 227cra, 363tl, 363b, 364c, 371br, 373b, 375cl, 378b; Bill Doyle: 214bl; The Dubliner Magazine: Jennifer Philips 104tc, 104cr, 105br; GA Duncan: 46cb, 46bl; © Dunder Art Galleries and Museums: *The Children of Lit*, John Duncan 27tc.

eircom: 380tl, 380bl, 380cr; Emphics Ltd: Hayden West 362cl; ET Archive: 27bl; Mary Evans Picture Library: 9 (inset), 24tl, 26tr, 26bl, 26br, 27cla, 34bl, 37bc, 38bl; 44bl, 53 (inset), 77cl, 89bl, 121 (inset), 281br, 287 (inset), 369 (inset).

FÁILTE IRELAND/IRISH TOURIST BOARD: 11c; Brian Lynch 24–25, 25tl, 246tl, 246tr, Pat Odea 360c; © STEPHEN FALLER LTD, GALWAY: 356cla; © FAMINE MUSEUM CO ROSSCOMMON: 219tr; JIM FITZPATRICK: 79bl.

GILL AND MACMILLAN PUBLISHERS, DUBLIN: 45bl;
RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE: *The Commitments*,
Twentieth Century Fox 23br; © Guinness Ireland
LTD: 98bl, 98br, 99tl, 99tr, 99bl, 99br.
HULTON DEUTSCH COLLECTION: 22clb, 23tr, 39t, 42br,
42cbl, 46br, Reuter 47c, 62bl.

IMAGES COLOUR LIBRARY: 48bl, 55tl; 229bc; INPHO, DUBLIN: 28cla, Billy Stickland 28br, Lorraine O'Sullivan 29br; Irish Picture Library, Dublin: 38cla, 41tl, 44tl; Irish Rail (Iarnród Éireann): 390tr; © Irish Times: 134br; © Irish Traditional Music Archive, Dublin: 25bl.

Jarrold Colour Publications: JA Brooks 62br; Michael Jenner: 243cr.

KENNEDY PR: 58cla.

TIMOTHY KOVAR: 78bl; 109tl, 114bl.

© LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY, LONDON: Plan of the London Vintners' Company Township of Bellaghy, Ulster, 1622 (ms. Carew 634 f.34) (detail) 39cra; Frank Lane Picture Agency: Roger Wilmshurst 186bc; © Leeds City Art Gallery: *The Irish House of Commons*, Francis Wheatley 40cla; PAT LIDDY: 105tl.

HUGH MCKNIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY: 101t; MANDER AND MITCHESON THEATRE COLLECTION: 24cl; MANSELL COLLECTION: 40bl, 45cra, 81bl, 268bc; ARCHIE MILES: 208br; JOHN MURRAY: 51bl, 96cl, 128c; © MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK: Gift of Mrs Robert M Littlejohn, *The Bay and Harbor of New York 1855*, Samuel B Waugh 42–43.

NATIONAL CONCERT HALL, DUBLIN: Frank Fennell 115bl; © National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin: WB Yeats and the Irish Theatre, Edmund Dulac 22tr, George Bernard Shaw, John Collier 22cr, Carolan the Harper, Francis Bindon 24tr, Leixlip Castle, Irish School 41cla, The Custom House, Dublin, James Malton 41bc, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert Opening the 1853 Dublin Great Exhibition, James Mahoney 43bl, The Houseless Wanderer, JH Foley 70tl, Pierrot, Juan Gris 68tr, For the Road, IB Yeats 70cla, The Taking of Christ, Caravaggio 71cra, Judith with the Head of Holofernes, Andrea Mantegna 71cra, The Sick Call, Matthew James Lawless 71crb, Jonathan Swift, Satirist, Charles Jerval 82bc, James Joyce, Jacques Emile Blanche 90t, Interior with Members of a Family, P Hussey

132br. William Butler Yeats, Poet, JB Yeats 233tl, The Last Circuit of Pilgrims at Clonmacnoise, George Petrie 250tr; © NATIONAL GALLERY, LONDON: Beach Scene, Edgar Degas 91br; © NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN: 23cla, 23crb, 31b, 34tl, 34clb, 36bl, 38tl, 38clb, 40clb, 42tl, 42cla, 42bl, 43crb, 43tl, 44clb, 45tl, 45crb, St Stephen's Green, James Malton 52-53, 141tr, 178cra, 244b; © NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND, DUBLIN: 3, 32tl, 32clb, 32cb 32crb, 32-33, 33c 33clb, 33br, 34cla, 35cb, 35br, 55bl, 59cr, all 66-7, 101b; THE NATIONAL TRUST, NORTHERN IRELAND: Lord Castlereagh after Lawrence 282tl, Hambletonian, George Stubbs 283tl, 283cra; The National Trust Photographic LIBRARY: Mathew Antrobus 273b, John Bethell 284tl, Patrick Pendergast 272bl, Will Webster 277br. 286-7: Nature Photographers: B Burbridge 187bc, Paul Sterry 186clb; Northern Ireland Tourist Board: 28tr. 258cl. 273tr. 358cl. 359tl; NORTON ASSOCIATES: 74 clb.

Kyran O'Brien 115tr; © The Office of Public Works, Ireland: 172bl, 246cl, 247tl, 247cr, 248br, 250tl; Oxfood Scientific Films: Frithjof Skibbe 186tl. Pacemaker Press International, Ltd: 374bc, 374br; Walter Pfeiffer Studios, Dublin: 25tr, 25cra, 25c, 25cr, 25crb, 25br; Photo Flora: Andrew N Gagg 186br; Photostage: Donald Cooper 114tr, 115tl; Popperfoto: 46cla, 46crb, 46tr, Reuter/Crispin Rodwell 47tr; Powerscourt Estate, Enniskerry: 135c.

RANGE PICTURES: 43cra; THE REFORM CLUB, LONDON: 42cla; REPORT/DEREK SPIERS, DUBLIN: 46tr, 278bl, 278br; RETNA PICTURES: Chris Taylor 24bl, Jay Blakesberg 24br; RETROGRAPH ARCHIVE, LONDON: © Martin Ranicar-Breese 65br; REX FEATURES: Sipa Press 47cl, 47bc.

SHANNON DEVELOPMENT PHOTO LIBRARY: 360tl; SHANNON-ERNE WATERWAY: 235bc; THE SLIDE FILE, DUBLIN: 16bc, 17t, 17c, 18cla, 18cra, 22cla, 29cra, 29clb, 29bl, 32cla, 48cla, 48bl, 49cb, 50cla, 50cra, 50cb, 50bl, 51cra, 77tr, 77br, 114br, 122cla, 129br, 138cl 138br, 151br, 185br, 211tl, 213tr, 214cb, 214br, 215bc, 224br, 227tr, 230tl, 230b, 232tr, 237b, 240tl, 242tl, 248tl, 250–51, 252cra, 270clb, 359br, 360br; Sportsfile, Dublin: 29tc; Stena Line: 384cl; Don Sutton International Photo Library: 290br. © Tate Gallery Publications: Captain Thomas Lee, Marcus Gheeraedts 38br; Topham Picture Source: 41br, Tim Graham 96t; Translink: 392bl; © Trinity College, Dublin: Ms.1440 (Book of Burgos) f.20v 37clb; Ms.58 (Book of Kells) f.129v 4tr, The Marriage of Princess Aoite and the Earl of Pembroke, Daniel Maclise 36cla, Ms.57 (Book of Durtow) f.84v 55cr, Ms.57 (Book of Durtow) f.85v 63cr, Ms.58 (Book of Kells) f.129v 64cra, Ms.58 (Book of Kells) f.129v 64cra, Ms.58 (Book of Kells) f.28v 64crb, Ms.58 (Book of Kells) f.200r 64b; Trip: R Druyy 17br, 140c.

© Ulster Museum, Belfast: The Festival of St Kevin at the Seven Churches, Glendalough, Joseph Peacock 30, The Relief of Derry, William Sadler II 38–9, 39crb, 44cla, 257crb, 278clb.

VIKING SHIP MUSEUM, STRANDENGEN, DENMARK: watercolour by Flemming Bau 35tl.

© Waterford Corporation: 35bl, 36tl, 36clb, 37bl; © Writers Museum, Dublin: 22tl.

Peter Zöller: 14, 16tl, 48tc, 48cr, 49cra, 49bl, 146br, 200, 216–17, 219bl, 220, 236, 249tr, 364br.

Front endpaper: all commissioned photography with the exception of Peter ZÖLLER: tl, tc, cb.

#### JACKET

Front – Corbis: Richard Cummins main image; DK IMAGES: Tim Daly bl.

Back – DK IMAGES: Joe Cornish cla, bl; Alan Williams clb, tl.

Spine – Corbis: Richard Cummins t; Walter Pfeiffer Studios, Dublin: b.

All other images © Dorling Kindersley.

For further information see www.DKimages.com

#### DORLING KINDERSLEY SPECIAL EDITIONS

Dorling Kindersley books can be purchased in bulk quantities at discounted prices for use in promotions or as premiums. We are also able to offer special editions and personalized jackets, corporate imprints, and excerpts from all of our books, tailored specifically to meet your own needs.

To find out more, please contact: (in the United Kingdom) Sarah.Burgess@dk.com or Special Sales, Dorling Kindersley Limited, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL; (in the United States) Special Markets Dept, DK Publishing, Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014.





## **EXEMITNESS TRAVEL**

Systematic information on more than 1,000 sights, shops, restaurants, hotels, and entertainment venues

## **KEY TO MAIN SYMBOLS**

Closed

Historic building, Domestic airport X street, square

Museum, gallery Train route Admission M

charge or station Long distance Church Church, cathedral, services monastery bus station

Photography Castle Bus route 0 not allowed or station

Archaeological Ferry service Guided tours site, ruin or port available Theater Population Wheelchair access

(phone to check details)

Tourist info/ Factory Restaurant info point

Telephone

Park Market day Café garden

Wildlife preserve, Festival Shop E-mail address

Place of natural

airport

 $\alpha$ beauty number International Open Website W

## SYMBOLS FOR HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

Swimming pool 52

Republic of Ireland Price category Caters for children Live music

Northern Ireland Fitness facilities Credit cards

not accepted & Wheelchair access Restaurant (phone to check details)

#### SYMBOLS FOR MAPS AND FLOOR PLANS

Airport Post office Taxi stand

Fast ferry service Viewpoint

Men's and DART station information women's restrooms

Hospital with Main bus stop Elevator emergency room

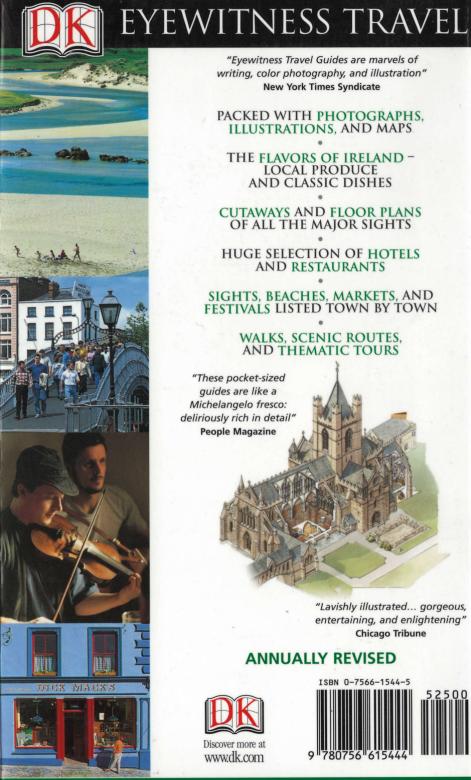
Police station Luas stop Coat check

Audio guides River boat service Church, cathedral

Ferry port Boat rental

There are DK Eyewitness Travel Guides to nearly 100 of the world's most fascinating destinations. Visit www.dk.com to browse our catalog and sign up

for our free travel newsletter.



"Eyewitness Travel Guides are marvels of writing, color photography, and illustration" **New York Times Syndicate** 

PACKED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND MAPS.

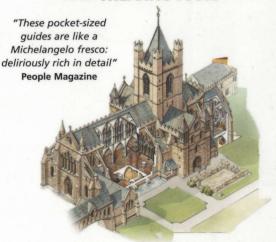
THE FLAVORS OF IRELAND -LOCAL PRODUCE AND CLASSIC DISHES

**CUTAWAYS AND FLOOR PLANS** OF ALL THE MAJOR SIGHTS

**HUGE SELECTION OF HOTELS** AND RESTAURANTS

SIGHTS, BEACHES, MARKETS, AND FESTIVALS LISTED TOWN BY TOWN

WALKS, SCENIC ROUTES, AND THEMATIC TOURS



"Lavishly illustrated... gorgeous, entertaining, and enlightening" Chicago Tribune

## ANNUALLY REVISED



